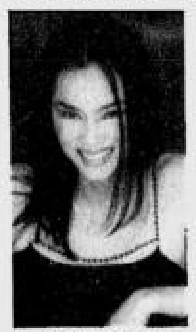
Gloria to all rebels: It is time we talk peace

STORY ON PAGE A2

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL



LEDESMA

- Kuh Ledesma on love and politics
- Sneak Preview: 'Cast Away' and 'Snatch'
- Spotlight on Britney Spears and A1 band
- Oscars campaign season starts

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2001 ★★ 82 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 64 ₱15

WITH THIS ISSUE

All about *élan*

- Valentine's at Rockwell
- Expressive Valentine Cakes
- Love is Lavender and Mauve
- Cherished Photographs

Erap plans to go to US

Fears he won't be allowed back after eye surgery in March

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada yesterday confirmed a reported plan to leave for the United States for eye surgery in March.

But at the same time, he expressed his fear that he might not be allowed to return.

The INQUIRER learned that it was Estrada's son, JV Ejercito, who convinced his father to leave the country for the sake of stabilizing the political climate.

"The new administration might not allow me to leave; or even if they allow me, they might not let me go back," he told the INQUIRER in an interview at his Polk Street residence in Greenhills, San Juan.

Estrada's planned trip could well put President Macapagal-Arroyo in a bind. While she might welcome the departure of Estrada, she has also been forewarned of the consequences of his leaving.

"If Estrada manages to slip out of the country by any pretext, the Macapagal government would be courting nationwide mass protests by the Filipino people who want Estrada to pay for his crimes. We want no compromise on this issue, declared Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) chair Rafael Mariano.

Earlier, JV and Estrada's other son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, said their father may ask the Macapagal administration to let him fly to the US for the eye surgery in March despite an order barring Estrada from leaving the country.

The elder Estrada said he has yet to decide if he would seek the government's permission to leave. In fact, he said, he had deliberately deferred renewing his passport because "they might misinterpret this again that I want to escape or leave the country."

Escape is exactly what Estrada is trying to do, according to Bayan.

In a press statement, Bayan said Estrada's trip "is a shameless attempt by Estrada to skirt the people's clamor for his prosecution and punishment."

But the eye surgery had long been scheduled for March in Boston, according to Ejercito.

"He is still scheduled to go, but he has no plans about what to do," Ejercito said. He re-

ERAP/ A7

GOOD MOOD DENNIS SABANGAN

President Macapagal and newly named Vice President, Teofisto Guingona, are in top form during their visit to Cagayan de Oro City on Friday.

'Money for AFP, none for gov't men'

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, GERALD LACUARTA AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

CONGRESS could grant government employees a 5-percent pay increase totaling P7.3 billion this year despite the Macapagal administration's plan to freeze their salaries due to the huge budget deficit, according to the chair of the Senate committee on finance.

"If we can send P5.5 billion for the Armed Forces of the Philippines for modernization and we can spend P2.4 billion to pay the debts of the privately owned Metro Rail Transit, I do not see why we cannot give the salaries to the government employees," Sen. John Osmeña said.

Militant groups also chided President Macapagal-Arroyo for pampering the military with promises of tax exemptions and other benefits for soldiers while freezing the salaries of other government workers.

Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said Ms Macapagal's generosity to the AFP was a sign that she still feared the military establishment which defected to her side at the height of the People Power II revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada last month.

"Why else would she be overeager to win them over to her side?" Beltran said. "Clearly, all the talks

MONEY/ A18

Gloria wants Noli, but allies don't

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos are pushing for broadcast personality Noli de Castro's inclusion in the senatorial ticket of the People Power Coalition (PPC), but key players in the movement that ousted Joseph Estrada are vehemently against it.

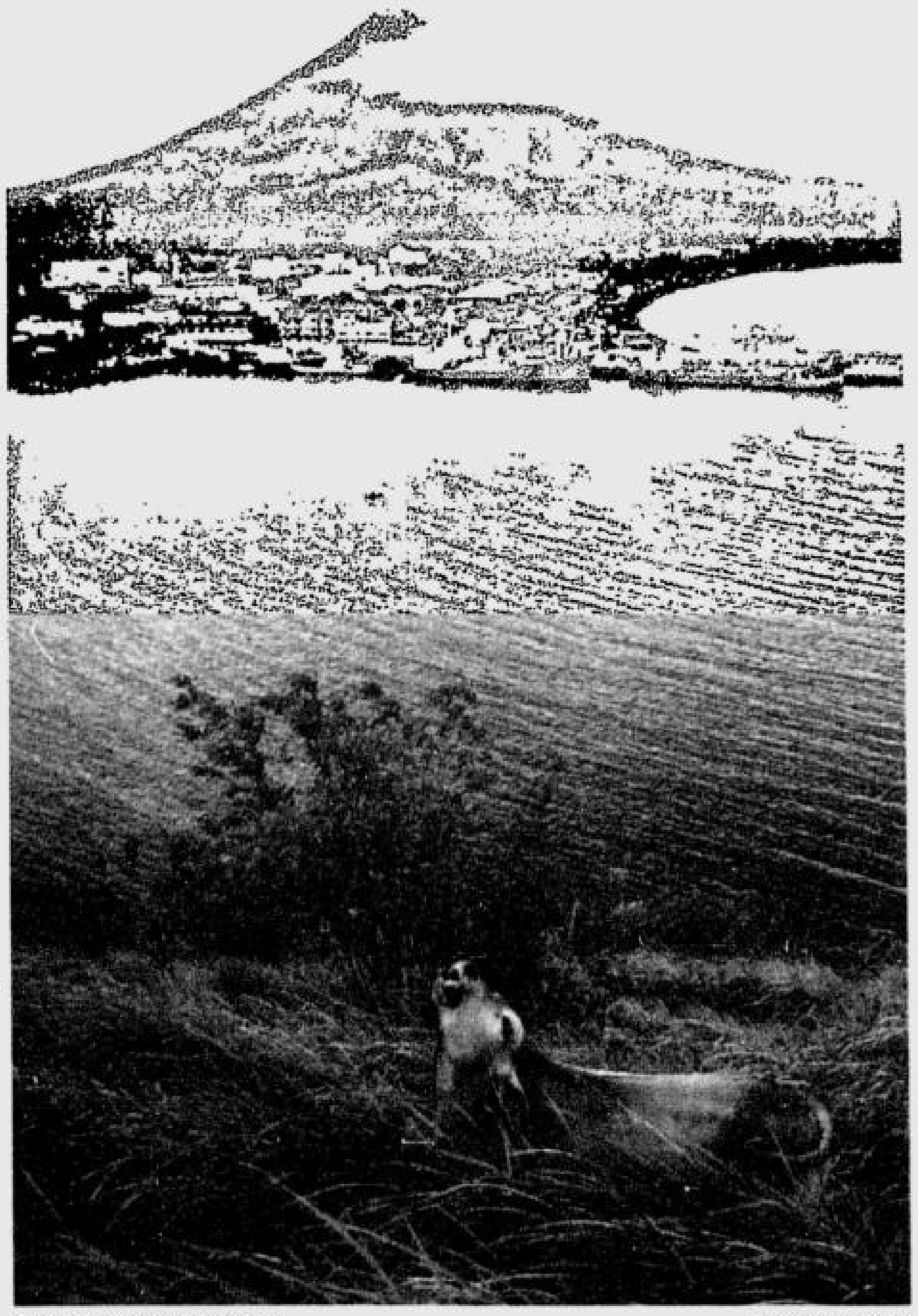
"The President is batting for Noli because he is always on top of the surveys. FVR (Ramos) is also pushing for him because we want to put up a very strong ticket," said a member of Lakas who requested anonymity.

Coalition members are putting a premium on the criteria of integrity, role in People Power II and espousal of Ms Macapagal's core values of good governance and leadership by example. But "winnability" is reportedly also a big factor.

Some of the key players of People Power II who are being considered for the slate are said to be doing poorly in the surveys.

The coalition members had agreed to give the President the right to choose all 13

GLORIA/ A19



CONTENTED COW EDWIN BACASMAS

All's well, or so it seems, in Legazpi City even as Mayon Volcano looms threateningly in the horizon. The Phivolcs has declared it a danger zone.

BSP head says Palace will respect his tenure

BY DONNA CUETO, GIL CABACUNGAN JR., CLARISSA BATINO AND BLANCHE RIVERA

MALACAÑANG has assured Governor Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) that it will respect his six-year tenure that ends in 2005.

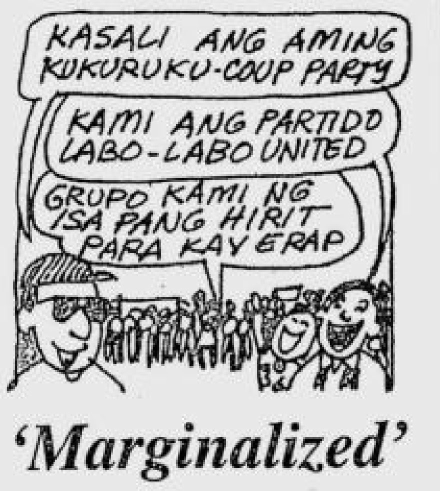
The beleaguered Buenaventura made the disclosure himself after he attended yesterday's oath-taking of Vice President Teofisto Guingona in Malacañang.

"I think the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) has been very consistent on that," Buenaventura said.

"She has said they will respect the tenure of office, not only of the Central Bank but all positions where there is fixed tenure. I think that is what is important," he said.

But Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo brushed

BSP/ A7


KASALI ANG AMING KUKURUKU-COUP PARTY
KAMI ANG PARTIDO LABO-LABO UNITED
GRUPO KAMI NG ISA PANG HIRIT PARA KAY ERAP

'Marginalized' sector getting too crowded

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

SINCE when have doctors, dentists, military officers and former Ambassador to Washington Ernesto Maceda been considered marginalized?

The elections for party-list organizations are headed toward a nightmare, as the Commission on Elections has still failed to issue guide-

MARGINALIZED/ A19

Lina clears Mendoza over Agarao protest

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND DAVE VERIDIANO

THE DEPARTMENT of the Interior and Local Government has cleared the acting chief of the Philippine National Police of charges ranging from involvement in kidnapping and murder to predisposition to gambling.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina told the INQUIRER in an interview in Malacañang that the DILG had found baseless the complaints lodged by anti-crime leaders Teresita Ang-See and Carina Agarao against Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Citing the DILG findings that Lina sub-

LINA/ A18

3 of Popoy's attackers known

BY DAVE VERIDIANO, ARMAND N. NOCUM AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

POLICE investigators believe that three of the four assailants of the late labor leader Filemon "Ka Popoy" Lagman are the same suspects who killed a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Valenzuela, Metro Manila, about two years ago, authorities said yesterday.

When photos of the suspected killers of the Chinese businessman were shown to Lagman's son Dante, the "young Lagman positively identified three of the pictures as his father's killers," one investigator told the INQUIRER.

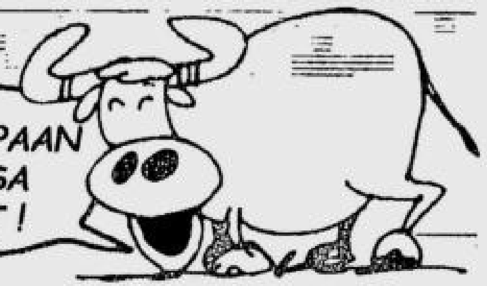
But Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas national president, said that Dante Lagman merely told the police that he was sure that "one of the cartographic sketches (matched the face of) one of the gunmen."

Police ballistics experts have also found that one of the guns used by Lagman's killers matches the murder weapon used in the earlier case, the investigator said.

That killing, the investigator said, was "owned by a communist group of hitmen identified as RPP-ABB" or the Revolution

3 OF POPOY'S/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE


KAPAYAPAAN PARA SA LAHAT!

‘It is time we talk peace’

Gov’t forms 2 peace panels for talks with Moro, Communist rebels

By Froilan Gallardo, Ellen P. Red and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—“It is time we sat down, as brothers should sit down, and talked peace. It is time to heal the wounds.”

This was the statement here yesterday of President Macapagal-Arroyo as she announced the composition of the government panels that would talk peace with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist National Democratic Front.

Ms Macapagal named Presidential Assistant for Southern Mindanao Jesus Dureza to head an all-Mindanaoan, all-civilian peace panel in the negotiations with the MILF and former justice secretary Silvestre Bello as chair of the government panel to deal with the NDF.

Bello and Dureza served in the government panels negotiating peace with the MILF during the Ramos administration. Dureza met with MILF leaders in early 1998 as Presidential Assistant for Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal told Dureza to resume the peace talks with the MILF “as soon as possible.” The talks, which began in August 1996, collapsed following the “all-out war” declared by former president Joseph Estrada against the separatist group last year. Retired general Edgardo Batenga headed the government panel under Estrada.

The NDF pulled out of its peace talks in May 1999, after the Senate ratified the controversial Visiting Forces Agreement that allowed American troops back on Philippine soil.

Ms Macapagal declined to comment when asked if she would meet with MILF chair Salamat Hashim.

She said she would leave the details of the negotiations to Dureza and Bello.

Panel Members

Comprising Dureza’s panel are Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, who is also secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front; Lanao del Sur Gov. Mahid Mutilan, who also heads the Ulama League of the Philippines and is a co-convenor of the Mindanao Bishops-Ulama Forum; former Mindanao State University president Emily Marohombsar, and Irene Santiago, convenor of the Mindanao Council of Women Leaders.

Marohombsar is the only member who served in the peace panel in the Estrada administration.

The members of Bello’s panel include Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, human rights lawyer Rene Sarmiento, peace advocate Risa Hontiveros and former Constitutional Commission member Jose Luis Martin Gascon. Sarmiento and Hontiveros were members of the peace panel until the talks collapsed.

Dureza said he would meet with members of his panel next week before resuming contact with MILF leaders.

He said his initial contact with MILF leaders in Cotabato City last month was very “promising.”

136,400 evacuees

More than half-a-million people, mostly Muslims, were forced to flee their homes when fighting erupted in Central Mindanao last year.

Billions of pesos in business opportunities were lost as Mindanao was affected by the “bad image of the war,” according to local businessmen.

Corazon Juliano Soliman, secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said at least 26,292 families, or 136,400 individuals, still live in evacuation centers in Central Mindanao.

She said many of the evacuees cannot return home because fighting still erupts occasionally in their villages.

Maj. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Army’s Cagayan de Oro-based Fourth Infantry Division, said the peace talks scenario now is different from a year ago.

“The MILF no longer has camps. We don’t have anything more to capture,” he said.

Cimatu said the troops now stationed in Mindanao would be put to better use in development projects on the island.

“The government has the upper hand. We should pursue peace now that the time is right,” he said.

The Armed Forces estimates that the MILF still has a force of 12,571 men, down from 15,000 when the war started in March last year. The MILF reportedly still has 9,000 high-powered firearms

Promise to MNLF

Ms Macapagal said her administration would carry out the unimplemented provisions of the government’s 1996 peace pact with the MNLF.

She stressed, however, there would be no compromise with terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf.

“We will follow the rules of engagement for terrorists. We will not romanticize terrorists in western Mindanao or any part of the Philippines,” she said.

This was her first visit to Mindanao since she assumed the presidency last month from Estrada who was driven from office by a mass-based uprising.

Dureza told radio dxMS in a telephone interview from Cotabato City that his panel will be advised by Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Gregorio Honasan, both former military officials, and Toto Paglas, a former mayor in Maguindanao.

He said he would recommend to the President the immediate start of development projects in the war-torn communities while the peace talks are going on.

“We should not wait for the completion of the peace process before we start development. For me, it should be peace talks simultaneous with development efforts,” he said.

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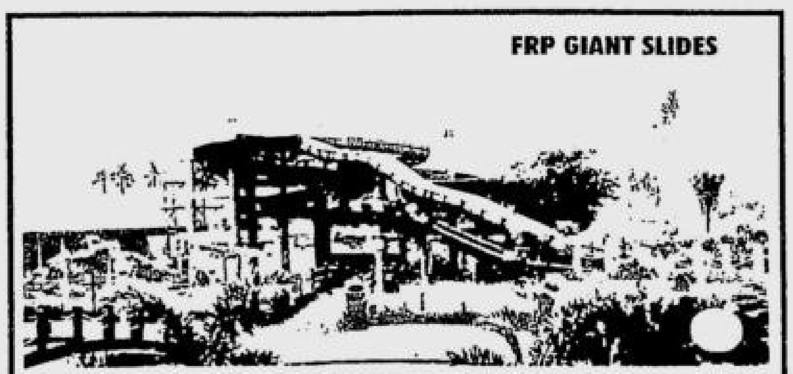

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Maceda files P5-M libel suit vs Vizconde

By Jerome Aning

ANTI-CRIME crusader Lauro Vizconde yesterday dared former ambassador to US Ernesto Maceda to face him in court, after the ex-envoy or his counsel failed to appear Thursday for a hearing on the P5-million libel suit Maceda had filed against Vizconde.

Maceda had sued Vizconde for “wounded feelings, besmirched reputation, sleepless nights and the like,” after the latter accused Maceda of trying to bring into the country four luxury cars without paying at least P9.3 million in duties.

Maceda, who resigned late last year to become a spokesperson for former president Joseph Estrada, has yet to return to the Philippines after wrapping up his affairs in Washington DC where he served as ambassador for five months.

“We leave him the option of withdrawing the case, but we have all the documents to pin him.” Vizconde’s lawyer, Pete Principe, told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Vizconde, vice president and spokesperson of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, said Maceda asked Estrada in December to grant him a tax exemption for four luxury cars he was planning to bring in. Maceda had reportedly made a similar request earlier to the DFA but this was denied.

Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. said Maceda had not served the minimum two-year requirement at his diplomatic post and, besides, diplomats are only allowed to import one vehicle tax-free by the Foreign Service Act of 1991.

Maceda had wanted to bring in a 2000 Mercedes Benz S-500 and a 2000 Toyota SUV worth P3.9 million and P2.6 million, respectively.

Two of Maceda’s assistants at the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC also asked the DFA to waive the taxes on two BMWs priced at about P3 million each.

In a three-page complaint dated Jan. 8, Maceda said the cars have not arrived in the Philippines, contrary to Vizconde’s claim.

He admitted purchasing the Mercedes but he said he did not own the other cars. Earlier, he had admitted the Toyota SUV was for his sister.

Guingona takes oath as Vice President

By Armand N. Nocum

VICE President Teofisto Guingona took his oath as the country’s second highest official yesterday, promising to rev up progress in Mindanao.

Interviewed by Palace reporters, Guingona also said that he will take his oath as secretary of foreign affairs on Tuesday.

Guingona said his plans include starting the peace process with Moro rebels, effect a mini-Marshal plan for Mindanao, and turn the Philippines’ second biggest island into the country’s food basket.

But he clarified that the mini-Marshal plan is different from what ousted President Joseph Estrada envisioned. He said his plan involves getting funds from Middle East countries and international funding agencies.

He said he also intends to step up assistance for the country’s overseas contract workers.

Asked whether he still holds any plan to run for President in the 2004 elections, he said no. But he acknowledged that his post is a natural springboard for the Presidency.

“Not necessarily, not in my youth and vigor,” said Guingona who is 70.

“Presidents and Vice Presidents are matters of destiny. No matter what your plans are, if you are not destined, you don’t become one,” he added.

Asked whether he will play a major role in the election, Guingona said yes. He is president of Lakas-NUCD.

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Canada opens doors to skilled immigrants

TORONTO—Over the next two years, Canada hopes to continue boosting the number of immigrants, particularly skilled workers, whom it attracts, as figures released Thursday showed the majority of new immigrants in 2000 came from Asia.

Figures show that 226,837 immigrants and refugees arrived in Canada last year, exceeding the government’s target of between 200,000 and 225,000.

Of the total, 26,708 were refugees, slightly lower than the refugee target limit of 29,300.

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan, who outlined the figures in the House of Commons, said the government plans to accept in total up to 235,000 immigrants and refugees in 2002, a 4.4-percent increase over 2001 target, which was the same as the 2000 level.

“A successful immigration program like ours is not just about numbers on a page, but rather about hardworking people and their families who come here from the world over to help build our economy, our society and our culture,” Caplan said in a statement.

Canada, which from its beginnings two centuries ago attracted many new immigrants with the promise of free land in its fertile western provinces, is one of the few countries that still actively seeks—and advertises—for immigrants.

The top five sources of Canadian immigrants of all categories in 2000 came from China (36,664), India (26,004), Pakistan (14,163), Philippines (10,063) and South Korea (7,602), government figures show.

China, India and Pakistan combined accounted for one-third of all immigrants coming to Canada last year.

Since 1979, when the government began presenting to Parliament yearly figures on immigrant numbers, some 3.6 million people have immigrated to Canada, with most of them setting in the major cities of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

Canada’s population currently stands at 30.7 million.

The largest block of immigrants in 2000 was skilled workers, who numbered 118,307, exceeding 2000 targets of between 100,500 and 113,300, and representing more than half of all immigrants and refugees arriving in Canada. *AFP*

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Ateneo honors Evelio Javier

THE ATENEO de Manila University is celebrating the 15th death anniversary of a great alumnus and a dedicated public servant, Evelio Javier.

A two-day reflection workshop ending today has been organized for student leaders and alumni. The Ateneo believes that there is a need to give the Filipino youth tangible role models whose lives have been witness to the values the university upholds: values of truth, justice, unconditional service to and love of country. Evelio Javier embodied and lived out these principles until his assassination on Feb. 11, 1986.

At 11 a.m. tomorrow at the High School Chapel, Loyola Heights Campus, a Commemorative Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J. ADMU president, with the homily to be delivered by Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., in honor of this beloved alumnus. Family members, friends, former classmates, and colleagues are cordially invited. Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino and her family are special guests.

For details, call the Planning & Development Office/Alumni Affairs at Tel. Nos. 426-6081 to 82 or Fax No. 42606080.

Ex-Solgen questions Ombudsman power on forfeiture of Erap assets

THE OMBUDSMAN might not have the authority to order the forfeiture of the P20 billion in bank deposits and real estate assets suspected to belong to deposed president Joseph Estrada.

This was the opinion of former solicitor general Francisco Chavez who noted that while "the Ombudsman may have the initiatory jurisdiction to entertain and investigate complaints leading to the filing of the forfeiture petition itself, his authority to file the forfeiture petition is in serious doubt."

Chavez made the contention in a letter to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday.

Chavez cited a recent ruling by the Supreme Court (Republic vs Sandigandayan) which noted that it was the Office of the Solicitor General that has the authority to initiate forfeiture proceedings.

"My reading of the . . . case tells me it is the solicitor general who has the authority to file the petition for forfeiture before the Sandiganbayan," Chavez told Perez.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has yet to appoint a new solicitor general to replace Ricardo Galvez who tendered his resignation when Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency.

"I am bringing this matter to your attention only for the purpose of obviating any frustration of the efforts to forfeit Estrada's ill-gotten wealth and to preclude the stifling of the enthusiasm that goes with the efforts," Chavez said.

The SC decision said that "the authority restored to the Tanodbayan (now the Ombudsman) . . . does not include the filing of a petition for forfeiture."

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had earlier issued subpoenas to 11 banks to surrender documents pertaining to accounts purportedly belonging to Estrada.

The subpoenas came after 81 groups and individuals filed a petition for forfeiture of Estrada's various assets.

But even if the Ombudsman moves for the forfeiture of Estrada's assets, the government cannot seize them until after the May elections.

This according to Desierto who told the INQUIRER that Estrada could invoke an existing law—Republic Act 1379—to protect his assets from being seized by the Sandiganbayan.

RA 1379, or the Forfeiture Law, prohibits the filing of a complaint for forfeiture one year before the holding of national elections, according to Desierto.

"So, even if the Ombudsman finds prima facie evidence to file the complaint for forfeiture with the Sandiganbayan this month, the anti-graft court will have to wait until after the elections to act on the case," he said.

The forfeiture case is on top of seven charges ranging from perjury to plunder lodged against Estrada with the Ombudsman.

In a 16-page pleading, the 81 petitioners, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, urged that "all the monies, properties and interests not disclosed by Estrada in his pertinent Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth be forfeited in favor of the Republic as provided under RA 1379," the same law Desierto quoted. However, Desierto pointed out that the criminal aspect of the complaint for forfeiture would be pursued. "There's no prohibition in filing the criminal aspect of the case, which is perjury," he said.

If found guilty, Estrada could face a maximum of six years in prison.

Yesterday, Desierto issued a subpoena to officials of the Citibank Greenhills branch for its records pertaining to alleged foreign currency deposits of Estrada.

The account was ordered frozen or placed under "constructive distraint" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue on Jan. 23 after Estrada reportedly attempted to withdraw money from it.

"It was obvious, based on his 1999 SAL, that he did not declare his true wealth," said Desierto.

In his 1999 SAL, Estrada declared a net worth of only P35.8 million.

But the Citibank account alone, which is strongly suspected to belong to the deposed president, was estimated to contain $3 million (P144 million based on a P48:$1 exchange rate). *Rocky Nazareno and Michael Lim Ubac*

More evidence vs Erap uncovered, says Tañada

By M. P. Marfil

FORMER President Estrada diverted P250 million from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to a foundation that held office at No.1 Polk St., the residence of the deposed President.

This was revealed yesterday by Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada who said that they uncovered the evidence during the impeachment trial.

Although they were not able to present it, Tañada said that the evidence—including those of the other issues like the appointment of relatives and Cabinet officials to multiple posts—would be turned over to the private prosecutors.

According to Tañada, the P250 million was half of the P500 million that was allotted for the PCSO's Botika ng Bayan program.

However, instead of being used for the project, one half of the amount was diverted to the Erap Partnership for the Poor Foundation, Tanada said.

"One member of the board was the First Lady and the office of the foundation was at No. 1 Polk Street," Tañada said.

"That would have shown conflict of interest," he said, speaking in Filipino, adding that it would be in addition to the criminal charges being considered against Estrada.

The foundation, he said, was registered in October of 1998—shortly after Estrada took over as President—and the fund diversion occurred in 1999.

At the same time, he said that the other pieces of evidence showed that Estrada violated the Constitution when he appointed his relatives to government posts.

He cited the cases of Raul de Guzman who was a member of the UP Board of Regents and San Miguel Corp., De Guzman's son was a presidential adviser, the brother of former First Lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito—Rufino Pimentel—to the board of directors of Pagcor and Cecilia de Castro, a cousin, as an adviser.

"Under the law, it's illegal to appoint family members to the fourth degree of consanguinity to government posts," Tañada said.

Tañada's team also had evidence showing that Estrada violated the customs and tariff code when he assigned more than 50 luxury vehicles that have not yet been declared abandoned of forfeited in favor of the government to Cabinet officials.

The cases against Estrada, would be filed by the private prosecutors before the Office of the Ombudsman.

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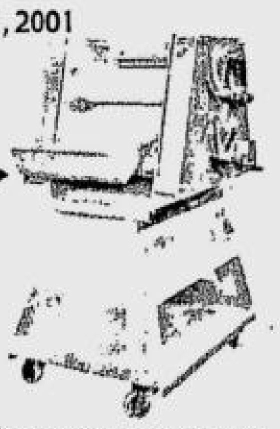

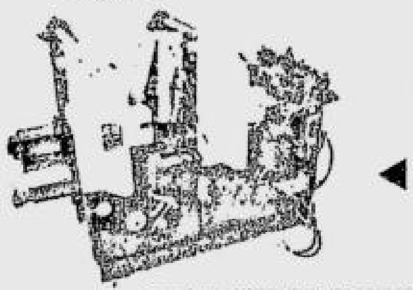

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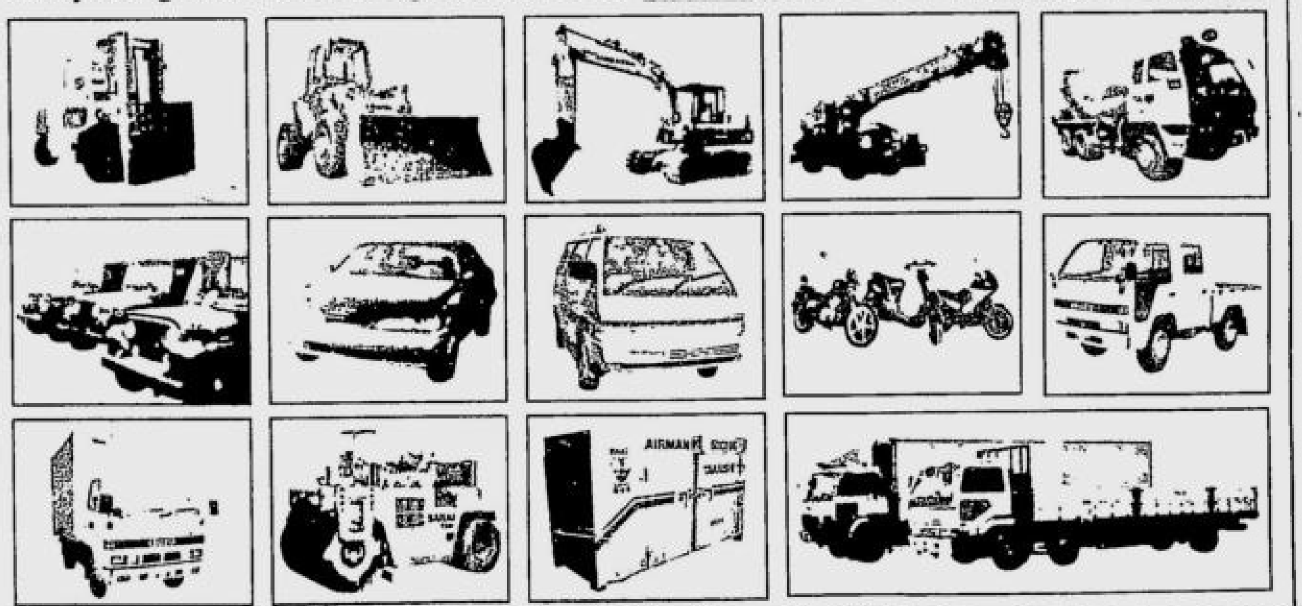

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It's official: Lacson running for senator

FORMER Philippine National Police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson formally entered the political arena yesterday when he filed his certificate of candidacy for senator with the Commission on Elections.

Unlike two of his colleagues in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino party—former press secretary Ricardo "Dong"' Puno Jr. and former presidential adviser on children's affairs Jamby Madrigal—who filed their candidacies the day before accompanied by drum-beating supporters, Lacson had tried for an inauspicious entrance, and failed.

Escorted by at least six bodyguards, Lacson arrived at the Comelec office in Intramuros at around 11:30 a.m. and created a frenzy among employees and visitors, mostly women, who left their desks to greet him, shake his hand and even kiss him.

"I'm trying out a new arena to contribute to public service," said Lacson, 53, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '71 who once said he loved public service as much as he hated politics.

But as if to belie that previous statement, Lacson took the chance to say he supports Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco's position disallowing the National Movement for Free Elections from conducting its traditional Operation Quick Count in May, saying there was "undue trending" in Namfrel's unofficial tabulations.

"If Namfrel will stick to its mandate of helping ensure the conduct of honest, orderly and peaceful elections, it would be an ideal setup," Lacson said.

Tancangco, in a 22-page position paper released Thursday, said Namfrel's previous quick counts, particularly in the 1987 senatorial elections, were marred by inaccuracies, inefficiency and bias.

She also noted that Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion was identified with certain politicians and business interests.

When asked what his campaign platform would be, Lacson said he is running in support of "peace and order."

"We must ensure that our laws are enforced and followed," he told reporters. "There must be peace and order in the country."

Gloria
GUEST OF HO

AWARDEES of the Bantay Katarungan, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and DECS Secretary Raul Roco, are honored by President Macapagal.

VAL HANDUMON

CBCP not very hopeful on Dacer case solution

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

THE CATHOLIC Bishop's Conference of the Philippines yesterday expressed fears that the disappearance of public relations man Bubby Dacer would become one of the country's unsolved crimes especially since military and police elements are among the suspects.

"I'm afraid (Dacer's abduction) will become like the many cases of unexplained disappearance during the Martial Law period, when security forces themselves were suspected to be involved," said Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the CBCP.

Quevedo said the only hope for the crime's solution was if one of the perpetrators would do a Clarissa Ocampo and come out with the truth about Dacer's fate.

"I wish someone among them would also do a Clarissa Ocampo and come out fearlessly into the open," Quevedo said.

Ocampo was the Equitable PCIBank executive who testified before the impeachment court that former President Joseph Estrada signed his name as Jose Velarde in owning one of the multimillion-peso accounts to his name in the bank.

Davide: 'Good, right, just and true'

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said yesterday he was simply doing his job when he stood up for what was "good, right, just and true" in the Senate impeachment trial of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

In a speech before Bantay Katarungan, which conferred an award of excellence on him and Sen. Raul Roco, Davide said he found "himself in the company of men and women who were simply doing their tasks and standing up for what is good, right, just and true.

"But in a very real sense, many others in the impeachment trial deserve (this) honor—most deserving of all are the Filipino people who finished the trial at Edsa," he said.

Davide and Roco were presented awards of excellence for their performance at the impeachment trial, during the first anniversary Thursday of Bantay Katarungan, an anti-graft watch group.

Bantay Katarungan is headed by former Senate president Jovito Salonga and former Justice secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez.

Davide told the audience he would only be "consoled enough" if his conduct in the historical trial "inspired" people to vote wisely and remind public officials of their duty to the nation.

He said his "obsession to strengthen the democratic process of impeachment" would best be rewarded by the election of good leadership through responsible suffrage.

"We learned from our experience with people power that Filipinos will not tolerate misgovernance of alarming proportions," Davide said at the Club Filipino rites.

Davide, introduced by Salonga as the "most credible Filipino of our time," said he himself was challenged to make the judicial system work to erase the perception that justice was only for the rich and powerful.

Davide and Roco were cited for their "excellent performance" during the impeachment trial of Estrada, which was suspended after 11 senators voted not to open an envelope believed to contain damning evidence against the former president.

Roco was among the 10 senators who voted to open the envelope. He has since been appointed education secretary by new President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Davide underscored "the importance -the relevance and materiality so to speak--of vigilance in the preservation of our democracy.

"I deplored the lack of it during the eve of martial rule and entertained high hopes that it would be pervasive after the euphoria of People Power I subsided," he said.

But with People Power II, Davide said, "I heard the voice of millions of Filipinos expressing their legitimate grievances and asserting their sovereign will."

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DFA watching Indon situation

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs is closely monitoring the escalating political unrest in its closest neighbor Indonesia, where some 1,700 Filipinos reside.

"We are watching developments closely, but there is no evacuation planned so far," acting Foreign Secretary Lauro Baja Jr. said yesterday.

Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid is trying to stave off attempts to impeach him on grounds of alleged corruption.

Tension in the nation's capital Jakarta intensified after pro-Wahid groups tried to attack the headquarters of the rival Golkar Party which brought up the corruption charges against Wahid in the Parliament.

Baja said the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta is keeping the department well-informed of the political developments.

He said the embassy has prepared contingency plans in case the security situation worsens.

Most of the 1,700 Filipinos in Indonesia live in Jakarta where they are employed in high-paying jobs.

Baja, however, believed the predominantly Muslim nation will not likely follow the Filipinos' recent display of "People Power" that led to the peaceful ouster of former President Joseph Estrada and a smooth transition of power.

He said the Golkar Party and some military leaders have given statements that they will not convene the Parliament for an emergency session to take up Wahid's impeachment.

"They already said they want the issue to be taken up during Parliament's regular session, so there is no reason to think that the military would withdraw support from Wahid like what happened here," Baja said.

He was referring to the withdrawal of the Philippine military and police of their support for Estrada after three days of massive protest rallies nationwide that left Estrada with no choice but to resign.

Estrada is now facing various charges of plunder, corruption and bribery.

RP, US to hold seminar on fighting crime vs kids

THE PHILIPPINE Justice Department and the US Embassy will hold a seminar next week to help the Southeast Asian nation combat crime against children, officials said yesterday.

The seminar, starting Monday, features lectures by the FBI and US Justice Department officials focusing on detection, investigation, prosecution, victim assistance and legislation.

About 100 police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, congressional staffers and representatives of non-government organizations are expected to attend the seminar. It will tackle offenses against children such as physical abuse, discrimination, child labor and pedophilia.

The Dutch, Australian and British embassies also will make presentations.

The Philippines has agreements with Britain and Australia to fight child sex abuse.

The Philippines is among the top Asian targets of pedophiles from Australia, Europe, North America and Japan, partly because of widespread poverty, weak law enforcement and corruption among some officials. *AP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—Before evident premeditation can be appreciated as a qualifying circumstance, these requisites must concur: (1) the time when the accused determined to commit the crime; (2) an act manifestly indicating that the accused had clung to his determination; and (3) sufficient lapse of time between such determination and execution to allow him to reflect upon the circumstances of his act. None of these requisites were established in this case. There was no an iota of evidence that appellants planned, meditated and reflected on their intention to kill the victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Bonito, G.R. No. 128002, October 10, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

PAOCTF linked to disappearance of 21 Tsinoys

By M. Lim Ubac

ROSEBUD, a former agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, yesterday linked members of the elite police body to the disappearance of 21 persons, mostly Chinese-Filipino businessmen, last year.

Quoting a report from the Chinese Embassy in Manila, Rosebud, whose real name is Mary Ong, said the kidnappings were reported to Camp Crame officials who allegedly sat on the cases.

Ong, now connected with the Hong Kong police, yesterday asked the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate former top PAOCTF officials for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping cases.

Ong claimed most of the missing Chinese were victims of *hulidap*, a term used when lawmen arrest a drug trafficker and later declare him as having been kidnapped to force his family to pay ransom.

Ong said relatives of two of the victims are scheduled to arrive in Manila from Hong Kong on Monday to urge the new PNP and NBI officials to solve the kidnapping cases.

Ong sought an audience with NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday after officials at Camp Crame failed to act on their cases. Wycoco, however, was out, so she and her companion talked to reporters instead.

Rosebud was accompanied by 56-year-old Ong Sui Lee, the mother of Angelito Sy Mendoza, 37, who disappeared in May last year.

Mendoza was employed as an interpreter by the PAOCTF.

In a sworn statement executed at the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on Jan. 31, 2001, the victim's mother tagged a top official of the PAOCTF as responsible for his son's abduction.

Mendoza was supposed to meet P/Chief Inspector Cesar Zafiro Tannagan of the PAOCTF at about 3 p.m. on May 11, 2000, according to her. "I waited for my son to come back but it was already 5 p.m. so I began to worry," she said.

She tried calling him but "the phone was just ringing," she said.

On May 13, 2000, she went to the PAOCTF office hoping that Tannagan would reveal her son's whereabouts. But the PAOCTF just recorded the incident.

When she chanced upon Tannagan at his office, the latter admitted that he and the victim were supposed to meet at about 3 p.m. at SM City on North Edsa. Mendoza was supposed to act as Tannagan's interpreter in a meeting with a Chinese drug lord, who was arrested by PAOCTF agents.

"He however told me that he did not go there since he was barred by P/Supt. (Michael Rey) Aquino," the mother said.

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Gov't, Church to collaborate on reproductive health issue

Singapore doc rapped for bad rabbit test on Filipino maid

SINGAPORE—A doctor was censured for professional misconduct and fined $2,906 for failing to detect a woman's pregnancy from a urine test, the Straits Times reported yesterday.

General practitioner Balkis Akbar Ali declared Fagarang Petron not pregnant in September 1999 but five months later the Filipino maid gave birth prematurely to a baby boy in a local hospital toilet.

The Singapore Medical Council censured Balkis for professional misconduct and acting in serious disregard of her professional responsibilities.

It was the responsibility of the doctor to interpret the results of the urine test rather than rely on a report submitted by her staff, the council said. *AFP*

By Norman Bordadora

THE MACAPAGAL administration will "collaborate with the Catholic Church" to educate parents on the need for responsible parenthood, government advocates of reproductive health announced yesterday.

Tomas Osias, chair of the Population Commission (Popcom), said that in their information drives, they will give more emphasis on other aspects of reproductive health, like espousing responsible parenthood among married couples.

"(The government) would collaborate with the Church on the implementation of parent education and on how to handle their sexuality," Osias said during a press briefing on the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health at the Westin Philippine Plaza yesterday.

"The (Catholic) Church and the State have no disagreements about promoting reproductive health. What we want both is to give couples and the public at large an informed choice and then they will be empowered," he said.

He said that instead of giving just one option for couples to use in contraception, they would focus on other issues concerning reproductive health, including human sexuality and gender sensitivity.

However, Dr. Marilou Costello, of the Population Council, said they are still expecting some opposition from the Catholic Church, which has been very vocal against artificial family planning methods.

"We are, of course, expecting some resistance coming from the Church on some of our programs, especially the use of artificial contraception. But we're veering away from the usual target," Costello said.

"Now we are also advocating gender equity, women's health. RH is now handled in a more holistic approach," she added.

Osias said that the Catholic Church should give them leeway to present all the options and let the couples decide for themselves regarding reproductive health.

"There is a sort of pre-conditions that we would give them all the options and aspects of reproductive health for the couple to decide on their reproductive health," he said.

Aside from these, other topics encompassing reproductive health will be discussed during the conference, including child trafficking in the region, and violence against women.

Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez said the stand of the health department on the issue and President Macapagal-Arroyo is the same, adhering to the policies of the Church in promoting responsible parenthood.

LAKAS RECRUIT

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, president of the Lakas-NUCD Party, swears in newest party recruit former Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor in simple rites at the Senate Friday. Gabor is expected to run for an elective position in the May polls.

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I've been cleared by the NBI, says Catanduanes solon

By Michael Lim Ubac

CATANDUANES Rep. Leandro Verceles Jr. said yesterday the National Bureau of Investigation has cleared him of involvement in a supposed attempt to bribe NBI agents investigating "ghost" infrastructure projects worth P1.8 billion in his province.

In a statement to the INQUIRER, Verceles said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco assured him he was not being investigated in connection with the bribery try on the task force probing projects in his province that were partially funded by the congressman's pork barrel or countrywide development fund.

"The NBI chief issued a statement denying (my) involvement in the bribery attempt," Verceles said.

This was confirmed in an interview by Wycoco who said, however, that the task force was continuing with its investigation of the infrastructure scam which came to light when it was discovered that most of the projects were non-existent or unfinished.

"Task force chief Max Salvador denied the bribery attempt but he confirmed that he is still probing the case, including Verceles," Wycoco said.

The alleged payoff, however, was confirmed by a ranking NBI official who said that a man claiming to be from the Verceles camp delivered a "paper bagful" of money to the task force last year in an apparent attempt to get it to stop its investigation.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Salvador refused to accept the money and told the emissary to return it to his boss.

The "ghost" infrastructure projects totaling 102 were mostly farm-to-market roads.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Salvador but he was unavailable for comment yesterday.

On the alleged P1.8 billion scam, Verceles had this to say: "This is an incredulous amount as infrastructure projects in the province never cost this much over the nine years I have been congressman.

"Assuming the amount is true, then it would mean all the projects built by the Department of Public Works and Highways in Catanduanes over a nine-year period were ghost projects, a statistical impossibility," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 10, 2001
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Gen 3:9-24*
Gospel: *Mk 8:1-10*

Jesus was in the midst of another large crowd that obviously had nothing to eat. So he called his disciples and said to them, "I feel sorry for these people because they have been with me for three days and now have nothing to eat. If I send them to their homes hungry, they will faint on the way; some of them have come a long way."

His disciples replied, "Where in a deserted place like this could we get enough bread to feed these people?" He asked them, "How many loaves have you?" And they answered, "Seven."

Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Taking the seven loaves and giving thanks, he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute. And they distributed them among the people. They also had some small fish, so Jesus said a blessing and asked that these be shared as well.

The people ate and were satisfied. The broken pieces were collected, seven wicker baskets full of leftovers. Now there had been about four thousand people. Jesus sent them away and immediately got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

Commentary:

Normal economics, they say, follows the law of supply and demand: when the supply is less, the demand is great. This must have been the same law that overwhelmed the disciples as they reacted to Jesus' desire to feed such a multitude of people. Feed them with what? is what they meant when they said "Where can we get enough bread to satisfy all these people?" Because they are overwhelmed by numbers, they practically ignore what they have and dwell instead on what they do not have. This is the same attitude that says "We have nothing except . . ." No miracle is possible for as long as something is considered as nothing because it is not much. It is rather when even what is little is broken and shared that a miracle is possible.

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BSP head says Palace will respect his tenure

(From page A1)

aside the BSP head's defense that he was covered by a fixed term.

"Yes, Buenaventura has a fixed term. So had former President Joseph Estrada. But that did not prevent the people from deposing the corrupt President," said Arroyo, a member of the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of Estrada.

The lawmaker said Buenaventura could not use the fixed term as an excuse for not giving a satisfactory explanation on why Estrada was able to withdraw P143 million from a numbered account just before Urban Bank declared a bank holiday on April 26, 2000. On the same day, the Monetary Board ordered it closed down.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno also accused Buenaventura of failing to protect ordinary depositors of Urban Bank while allowing the BSP employees to pre-terminate their P15-million deposit before the bank closed down.

Arroyo and Moreno said Estrada and the BSP Provident Fund had prior knowledge of the impending closure because Buenaventura had tipped them off.

Buenaventura, a high school classmate of Estrada, has denied the allegations.

He said the congressmen-prosecutors should first establish the real owner of the numbered account—"858"—by filing a court case to open the account before making any charges.

"Buenaventura cannot adopt an ostrich-like attitude of giving blanket denial that he did not tip (off) the President and the BSP employees. Erap also adopted that stance. He too claimed that he did not have numbered or alias accounts, look what happened to him," Arroyo said.

As Arroyo stepped up his attacks on Buenaventura, former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. and the BSP Employees Association came to the aid of the BSP chief.

Investigate or . . .

Cuisia urged the Macapagal administration to investigate the allegations against Buenaventura, or leave him be.

Cuisia, who served as BSP head under the Aquino administration, said removing Buenaventura at this time without filing the proper charges would be damaging to the economy.

He warned against the "politicization" of the BSP.

"If you mix politics and monetary policy, it's dangerous for the economy," Cuisia said in an interview during the first anniversary of the Bantay Katarungan at the Club Filipino Thursday night.

"So they have to separate politics from the BSP. The principle of the independence of BSP must be respected," Cuisia said.

The former Central Bank governor said it was "unlikely" that a bank would close down without informing the BSP Governor of its predicament because banks ask for assistance from the BSP if they were having liquidity problems.

"A bank will have to go to the BSP to ask for emergency loans or financial assistance," he said. "They can't close down on themselves. They may declare a bank holiday. They have to advise the BSP if they're going to close."

The BSP Employees Association, said it was expressing support for Buenaventura "not because we idolize him but rather we want to preserve the independence of our institution from the executive as well as the legislative branches of our government."

"We appeal to the heroes of the impeachment trial, specifically Congressmen Joker Arroyo and Oscar Moreno, for their sense of fairness, justice and equity. Please respect the BSP Charter. Spare our institution from politics," said Antonio P. Cruz, president of the BSP Employees Association.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) earlier threw its support behind Buenaventura.

But the BAP has no moral authority to defend Buenaventura, according to Arroyo.

"They, too, covered up for ousted President Estrada. Erap maintained numbered or alias accounts in many big banks. Their top executives concealed to the end these accounts during the impeachment trial," Arroyo said.

No violation

Buenaventura clarified that he had not violated any law of the BSP as alleged by his detractors.

He has not worked for a multilateral bank or agency like the International Monetary Fund-World Bank or the Asian Development Bank.

Neither did he hold "substantial shares" at the PCI Bank where he sat as a board member before he was appointed BSP governor in July 1999.

"When I was working for PCI Bank for 10 years, I only held a qualifying share. In other words, I was not a substantial shareholder," he said.

"I even surrendered the qualifying share after I retired," he said.

Buenaventura noted that his predecessor, Gabriel Singson, came from the Philippine National Bank before being appointed as BSP Governor.

"There is already a precedent to this. Like Governor Singson, he transferred from PNB to the Central Bank," he explained.

"There is no prohibition here. PCI Bank is not a multilateral agency. It's a commercial bank," Buenaventura said.

A prohibition applies if he had substantial shares in the bank at the time enough to corner or "vote yourself for a seat in the board."

Buenaventura there had been no similar moves in the past three administrations to forcibly remove the head of the BSP.

He said that Singson, a Ramos appointee, finished his term until July 1999.

Asked if he knew the forces seeking his ouster, the BSP chief said he did not know.

BSP chief blames Borlongan

But Buenaventura accused Teodoro Borlongan, president of the bankrupt Urban Bank, as the culprit in the moves to oust him.

"I think Borlongan is fighting for his life; some P4.7 billion is involved in all cases filed against him and other Urban Bank officials. He has the most to lose from these cases," he said.

Buenaventura said Borlongan must have reckoned that should he step down as BSP Governor, his successor would not pursue cases filed against Urban Bank.

Buenaventura said the BSP was determined to pursue all cases against Borlongan and Urban Bank and that it was in fact set to file a new case against him.

The BCP chief said Borlongan previously claimed that it was the BSP which forced Urban Bank to close down last year.

Borlongan yesterday turned the tables on the BSP Governor, saying it was Buenaventura who had been doing a demolition job on him in the last 10 months.

"If he accuses me, he's getting really paranoid. I have no influence and I have been the one that had been harassed and publicly humiliated since the BSP closed Urban Bank," he said.

Borlongan said Buenaventura should resign because he was inefficient.

"I definitely feel strongly that he should resign. The past few days had proven that he had lied," said the Urban Bank president. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

BUENAVENTURA

Erap planning to leave for US

(From page A1)

peated his father's statements about not wanting to live outside the Philippines.

Hold-departure orders

The Department of Justice issued an order last month barring Estrada and 23 other people, including his wife, from leaving the country during a criminal investigation into corruption allegations.

Estrada never signed a resignation letter and claims Ms Macapagal is only the acting president.

Based on that claim, Estrada says he still has presidential immunity and appealed to the Supreme Court this week to halt the corruption probe against him.

Private prosecutors alleged that Estrada and his cronies amassed as much as P15 billion in bribes and kickbacks during his term.

Bayan admonished Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for "lumping together all the eight Estrada cases" submitted to his office and for using the weaker cases to delay the lodging of criminal charges against the former president.

Bayan claimed that together with 81 other people's organizations, the forfeiture cases it filed against Estrada was strong.

"It is complete with the necessary evidence and cannot be considered weak. He cannot make sweeping generalizations of the eight plunder cases," Mariano said. *With a report from Alcuin Papa and AP*.

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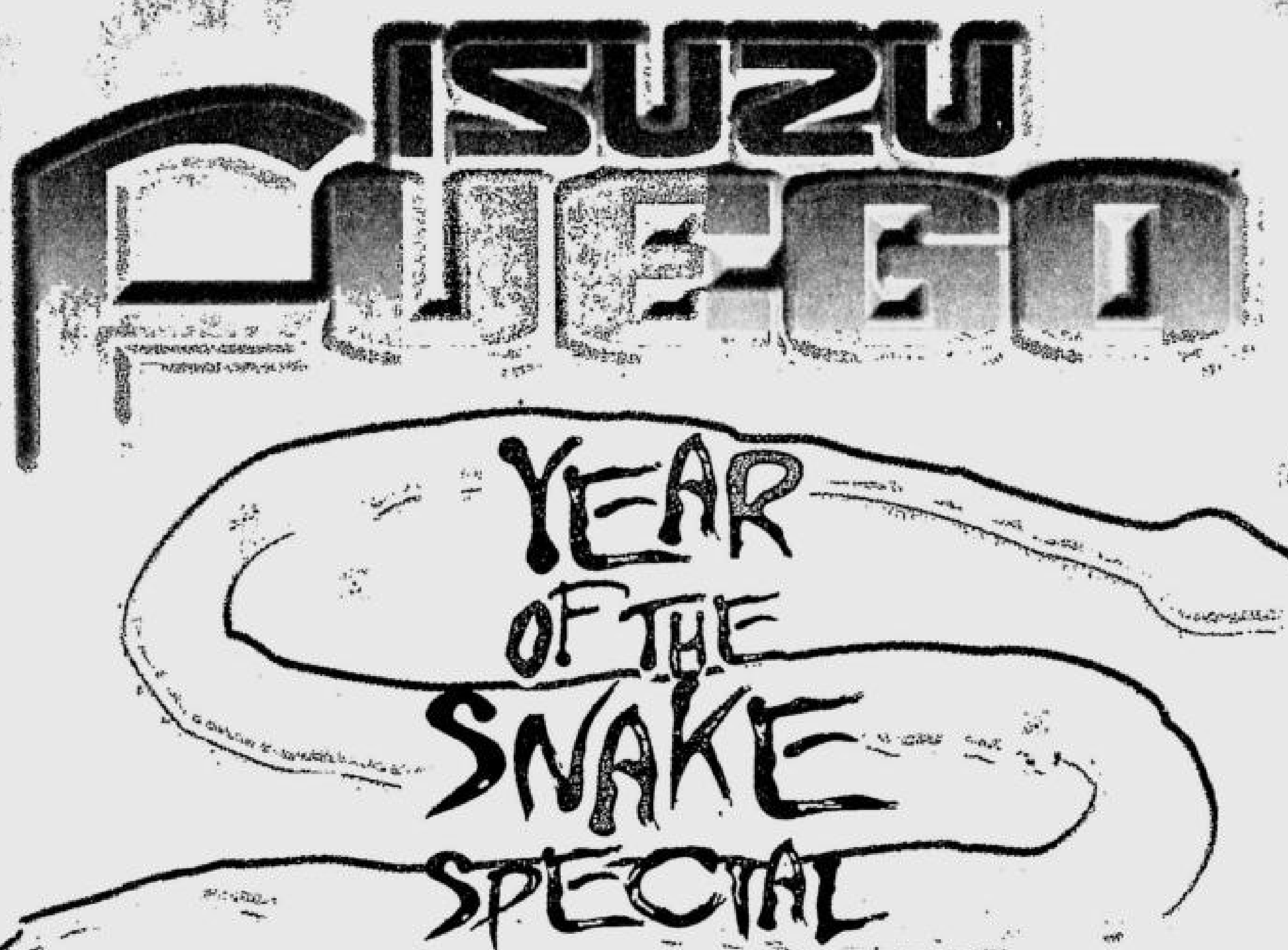
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Political opportunism

EDITORIAL

MID-TERM elections have traditionally been a referendum for a sitting administration. As such, the opposition gains seats in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

However, the May 2001 elections are different. They are shaping up as a referendum—or a vote of confidence—for a new government and a repudiation of the deposed Estrada administration.

There's a scramble for space in the senatorial ticket of the administration alliance, called the People Power Coalition, because it can use to its advantage the euphoria enveloping the newly installed Macapagal presidency and the public opinion backlash against the ousted president. The problem of the administration coalition is it's overloaded with senatorial aspirants. The opposition ticket suffers from fragmentation and the Estrada stigma, and it has a problem filling the slots with strong candidates.

The People Power Coalition is built on the core of the Lakas-NUCD, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's party, and the smaller parties: Aksyon Demokratiko, Reporma, Promdi and the Liberal Party. It is recruiting for its ticket a team composed mainly of participants in People Power II. But already, the scramble for place in the ticket is straining the cohesion of the coalition.

One source of unrest is that two media personalities who were identified with the disgraced president are being considered to complete the ticket. The argument, which is valid, is that if the alliance is called the People Power Coalition, those who were on the wrong side during the street rebellion to depose Estrada has no right to be in the coalition's ticket. This makes a lot of sense.

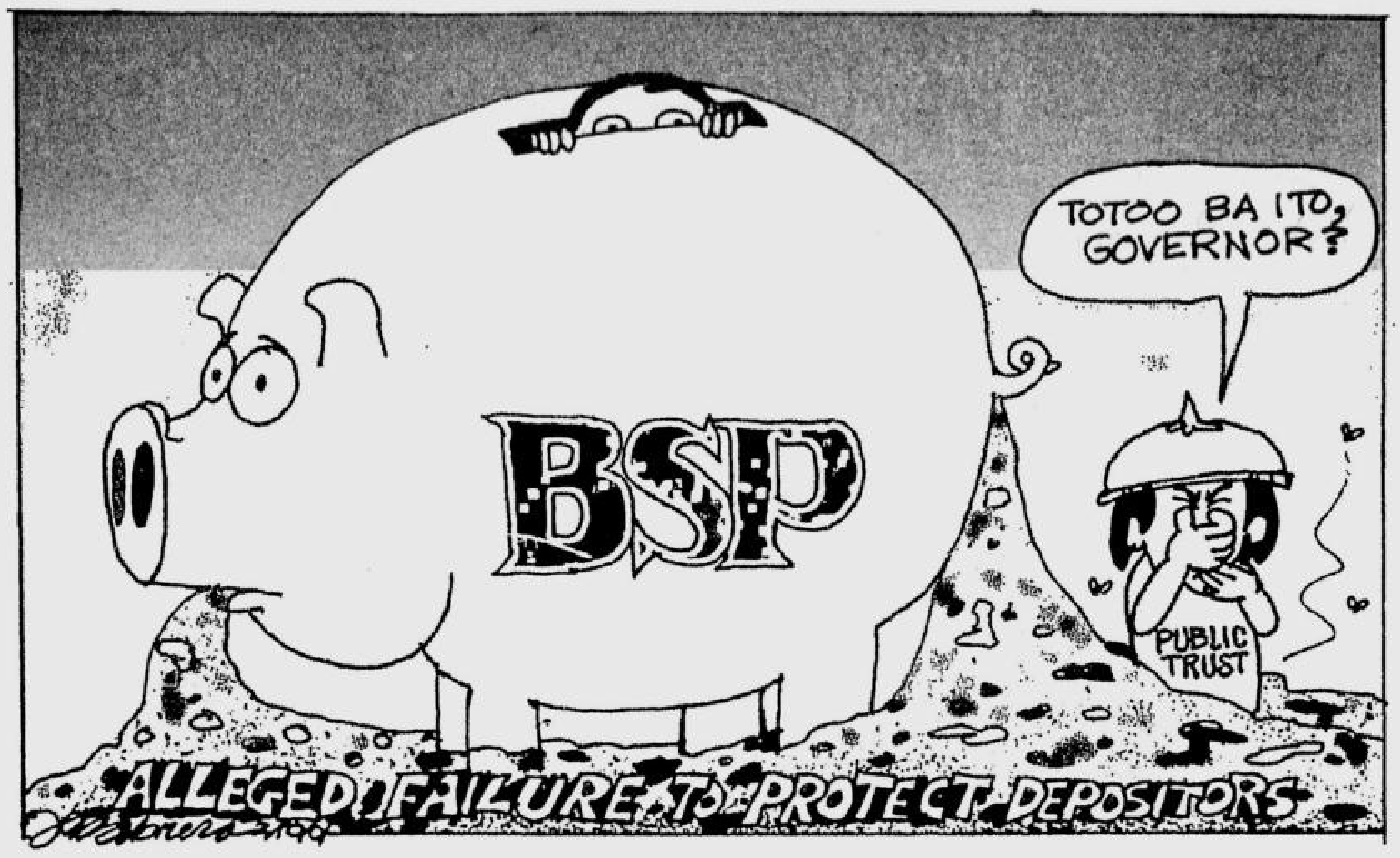
One of those personalities is a radio-TV celebrity who has received top ratings in public opinion polls for senator. This man was a shoo-in for the ticket of Estrada's LAMP coalition before he was deposed. Now, this man is itching to jump into the administration coalition bandwagon after the dissolution of LAMP. The People Power Coalition does not need opportunists and has a wide field for recruitment for the Senate.

Edsa II has thrown serious doubt on the notion that people who have gained popularity because of their public exposure through the media or entertainment industry have a God-given right to be elected to public office. News readers, for example, have such exposure, but reading packaged news on TV or idiot cards does not necessarily equip media personalities with the qualifications to be good senators. We have in the Senate a number of people who were catapulted to that deliberative body who remain ill-equipped to engage in intelligent or informed exchange, thereby debasing the level of debate in the Senate.

The ouster of Estrada is a defining event in regard to the qualifications of people in show business or the entertainment industry to occupy public office and deliver competent performance—not merely the ability to read news. With our experience with the ex-actor Estrada, our voters now should learn the lesson that in choosing their senators, congressmen and high executive officials, they should require more stringent credentials than merely high popularity ratings.

The fragmented opposition parties—namely the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and the Nationalist People's Coalition—are the natural dumping ground for candidates closely associated with Estrada and media journeymen who used their media platform to slant the news in favor of Estrada. These people with high popularity ratings in the public opinion polls should join the ticket where they belong. The defining issue in the May elections is more than just the individual qualifications of the candidates. The great divide is between those who were engaged in People Power II in a movement to end the catastrophic and venal Estrada administration and those who worked to inflict it on the Filipino people.

Those who worked for Estrada and who now seek to be part of the new administration's senatorial ticket are exhibiting political cynicism and opportunism. They have nothing more to offer than popularity ratings which are really not a substitute for having something between their ears.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ALLEGED FAILURE TO PROTECT DEPOSITORS

An indecisive decision

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN A *per curiam* resolution dated Dec. 6, 2000, the Supreme Court dismissed the petition in Cruz and Europa v. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, G.R. No. 135385, better known as the IPRA Case. This was a challenge to the Indigenous People's Rights Act on constitutional grounds.

Rep. Act No. 8371 was enacted in 1997 for the purpose of recognizing and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral domains and ensuring their economic, social and cultural well-being. Indigenous peoples refer to those who share distinctive traditional bonds and have continuously lived on communally bounded territory under exclusive claims of ownership.

The principal contention of the petitioners was that the statute violated the Constitution for allowing well nigh absolute control to the indigenous people over their so-called "ancestral domains." This grant contravened the constitutional vesture in the State of ownership of all natural resources and full control and supervision of their exploration, development and utilization.

In refutation, the respondents and intervenors contended that Art. XII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution did not cover the ancestral domains because they were not public lands but had been owned by the indigenous peoples since "time immemorial." Title had vested in the various tribes as traditional owners even before the adoption of our past and present charters and could not be revoked by the said provision.

There were sentimental overtones in the case. The petitioners stressed at the outset that they were not against the indigenous people but only the way their interests were being promoted by the IPRA in violation of the Constitution. The respondents and intervenors, for their part, argued that the indigenous people were being unjustly deprived of the benefits they deserved under the law and so were entitled to the protection of the Court.

The petition was not decided on the merits. It was dismissed simply because it fell short of one vote to justify its grant by a majority of the 14 justices. (The vacancy created by Justice Purisima's retirement had not yet been filled then.) The Court was split down the middle, with 7 holding it should be dismissed and the other 7 for sustaining it. The resolution ruled:

"As the votes were equally divided (7 to 7) and the necessary majority was not obtained, the case was redeliberated upon. However, after redeliberation, the voting remained the same. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 56, Section 7 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, the petition is DISMISSED."

Justice Kapunan filed a separate opinion justifying the dismissal of the petition and was joined by the Chief Justice and Justices Bellosillo, Quisumbing and Santiago. That made 5 of them. Justice Puno also submitted his own separate opinion, as so did Justice Mendoza, but the resolution does not say that anyone joined either of them.

For the other side, Justices Panganiban and Vitug filed separate opinions holding several provisions of the IPRA to be unconstitutional. Justices Melo, Pardo, Buena, Gonzaga-Reyes and De Leon joined Panganiban and Vitug, for a total of 7 members in favor of granting the petition. But they were also short of the required majority.

The 90-page opinion of Justice Puno makes for instructive and interesting reading but only as a tract on the historical and legal roots of the Regalian Doctrine, which the respondents claimed was not applicable to the ancestral lands of the indigenous people. The learned discussion has no legal force and cannot even serve as *obiter dictum* because not a single other justice concurred with it.

The 77-page separate opinion of Justice Kapunan also traces the history of the indigenous people and applies the provisions of the Constitution and the IPRA in their favor. It is also a useful and well-researched thesis but nothing more. It likewise has no binding effect although 4 other members of the Court supported it. Together with the writer, they did not constitute a majority of the 14 justices.

In his separate opinion, Justice Mendoza contended that the petition presented no justiciable controversy and that the petitioners were not proper parties. But like Justice Puno, he spoke alone.

The separate opinions of Justice Panganiban and Justice Vitug are fully supported by 5 of their colleagues. But as their combined and solid vote of 7 does not constitute a majority of the Court either, their views cannot qualify as judicial doctrine.

I am not criticizing the Supreme Court for another cop-out because I realize the case raised many controversial questions that are not easily resolved. I do wish, however, that at least one of the justices had moved to one or the other side (either for granting or dismissing the petition on the merits) and thus made possible a decisive ruling.

The petition having been dismissed simply because no majority vote was obtained for either side, the merits of the case remain unresolved and are still hanging in the air.

The questions raised in the IPRA Case involve many vital constitutional provisions dealing with the national patrimony and the power conferred by the fundamental law on the State over the natural resources of the Philippines. There is total agreement among the parties that the indigenous people deserve the compassion and protection of the government. They disagree only on how such solicitude should be extended without violating the Constitution.

The motion for reconsideration of the indecisive resolution is not likely to result in a more conclusive decision on the merits. Justices can be unbudging in their opinions. The recent appointment of the 15th justice may not solve the stalemate either. Not having participated in the deliberation of the case, Justice Angelina S Gutierrez is not qualified to vote on it.

Don't mess with Ilocano warlords

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Instead of wasting his time trying to reclaim his lost presidency, Erap should be writing, or have somebody write, his memoirs. And its title should be, "Don't Mess with Ilocano Warlords." It could be a bestseller.

Erap must certainly rue the day he met the crafty Chavit Singson, who eventually became his gambling and drinking buddy for decades. Little did he know then that this quintessential Ilocano warlord would be his nemesis, infinitely capable of betraying the boss and shedding blood on the floor.

Reviewing the circumstances that led to the ultimate perfidy, one can understand why Chavit did what he had to do. He was not only losing his loot from the underworld, and consequently his personal, if not political power, he was about to lose his life as well. Thanks to his criminal instincts, he survived. But then survival is the way of all warlords.

Now that the dust has settled somewhat, what does it all mean? While we as a nation understand Chavit's fateful whistle-blowing, we must begin to undermine warlordism as a way of life in many parts of the country, including my native Ilocos where things have scarcely changed for generations.

As a child growing up in La Union, the so-called "Gateway to Ilocandia," I would hear of gangland-style rubouts involving criminal elements who were into gambling, such as *jueteng*, *monte* and cockfighting, smuggling and other sleazy activities. Almost always, such notorious elements came from upcountry Ilocos Sur. Vigan, Candon and Narvacan were often mentioned as sources of "hitmen" and the "bad guys." People in La Union were in mortal dread of them. But not all of them looked like your typical macho hoodlum. In fact, one that I recall, whose name shall remain anonymous for obvious reasons, looked very benign. Like a smiling godfather who gave candies to kids roaming around. He would eventually be wiped out, no doubt in some betrayal or vendetta killing in the shadows. Violence is always an inevitable ingredient of the politics of gangsterism.

Warlord families have ruled certain provinces and localities for generations. Essentially, in these places, social conditions remain feudal and local bosses rule with the values of impunity and raw power. Over time, Philippine central governance has effectively lost, or surrendered, control over the countryside to the dynastic rule of regional and provincial warlords. The same family names keep cropping up in election after election.

This continuing rule by warlords is reinforced by their economic power buttressed in most cases by private armies and goons whose presence is enough to intimidate or manipulate the local populace, especially during elections. These conditions add up to what scholars call "the weak state" in studies on politics and society. This phenomenon refers to the inability of the state apparatus as legally constructed to enforce its will on civil society.

In effect, warlords like Chavit Singson, have set up, as did their predecessors, their own brand of de facto autonomy, relying on or extracting from the resources of local power. And it's not just gold, goons and guns anymore we are talking about. Ilocanos in Hawaii, many of whom regard Chavit with a mixture of awe and fear, swear that he even has a helicopter and a submarine! And, of course, his bullet-proof car and cellular telephone, both of which he should preserve in a museum for saving his life. Good old warlordism never fades. It just gets modernized and more sophisticated.

Why does warlordism persist in this day and age? Books edited by Jose F. Lacaba ("Boss," 1995) and Alfred McCoy ("An Anarchy of Families," 1994) provide excellent insights into and case studies on local "bossism," which cannot be discussed extensively here for space reasons. The proliferation of arms, emergence of private armies, erosion of central authority and the continuing cycles of violence and viciousness among competing local elite families are some of the reasons cited for the growth and continuance of warlord politics in some regions of the country.

McCoy argues that although violence is the most visible aspect of all warlord families, they must seek "rents" or state revenues to assure their political survival. "There is an obvious economic dimension to provincial politics that encourages rent-seeking," he theorizes. Rent-seeking politics is defined as "a process of turning political capital into commercial opportunity." Even the most violent warlord, continues McCoy, requires "an autonomous source of revenue to sustain his retinue and private army," in addition to state funding and subsidies which provide resources for patronage and corruption. This source is usually provided by the underworld and its spoils from gambling and other forms of illegal activity.

This observation seems to find support in the latest presidential crisis. Erap was cutting off Chavit as a major honcho in the *jueteng* underworld and replacing him with his "mortal enemy" cousin also named Singson.

In addition to being arrogant, Erap was certainly dumb in this case. This essentially meant the loss of Chavit's "autonomous source of revenue" and consequently his power. And very likely, his life as well. What was he to do given his training in the School of Violent Political Culture?

As the new presidential dispensation gets into high gear, it should pay serious attention to these "El Dorado"-type local conditions which spawn never-ending cycles of violence, corruption, poverty, crime, disease, fear and hopelessness among people in many places in the country.

"Indeed, it is daunting to transform our politics and our society but it can be done," said then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in August 2000 on the seventh anniversary of Kilosbayan. Now as President, she has more room and power to begin this daunting task.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Edsa coalition should junk 'celebrity' mentality

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CELEBRATION of the first anniversary of Bantay Katarungan last Thursday at Club Filipino, where Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Sen. Raul Roco were honored for their key roles in the recently terminated Senate impeachment trial, was an auspicious day not only for the fledgling "Sentinel of Justice" group. As Davide pointed out, it was also the 111th birth anniversary of the late nationalist Claro M. Recto and the 66th anniversary of the ratification of the 1935 Constitution. Six days earlier, it was also the 14th anniversary of the ratification of the 1987 Constitution.

* * *

But to many in the jampacked hall, it was also auspicious, for this was the first time that President Macapagal, the keynote speaker, affirmed her administration's policy of "Reconciliation with justice." She promised a "speedy, vigorous and relentless" prosecution of former government officials who had violated the public trust, obviously referring to those in the past administration, as she stressed that "there can be no healing without cleansing." She said that "nobody is near the corridors of power because there are no such corridors—only public service for civil servants." She recalled the first line of her father's inaugural speech which stated that "the primary function of the President is not to dispense favors, but to dispense justice."

In his lunch-meeting with media women last Thursday, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa also stressed this policy. "No deals with Erap," he said, and in the final analysis, the "arbiter" of all the government's actions will be "our laws."

* * *

Ms Macapagal, in vowing "No reconciliation without justice," is heeding the overwhelming sentiment of Filipinos in the aftermath of Edsa Dos, notably the Catholic bishops and various NGOs, who want those who abused power to be prosecuted to the fullest. Davide, in his acceptance speech at Bantay Katarungan, pointed out that what triggered Edsa Dos was misgovernance in "alarming proportions," and he is absolutely correct. But what the people fear is that despite their gross misgovernance, the perpetrators would go unpunished, like what happened after Edsa I. Various surveys indicate the people's apprehension and desire that the wrongdoers be meted out justice to the full extent of the law.

Among those listening to Ms Macapagal that afternoon was Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who will evaluate the cases against former President Estrada. We hope and pray that he will render full justice to the people.

* * *

There is no doubt that the people want to see justice done. From Rome, longtime Filipino community leader Tomas Concepcion faxed me a letter saying that two radio programs hosted by Filipinos, "K.P. Kaibigan Radio Pinoy" and "R.P.B.S. Radio Pinoy" were busy keeping the over 80,000 Filipinos in Italy abreast of the news about the Senate trial and the people power event. Concepcion himself appeared on both programs, as he felt that the OFWs had to be kept well-informed.

Concepcion said the question was posed to the Filipinos in Italy as to whether Estrada should be allowed to leave the country or be tried in court for his crimes. The response was unanimous: he should not be allowed to leave and he should be prosecuted to the full. Another question: If the overseas Pinoys could vote, would they vote for those among the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the envelope, who are running for reelection? One response: Not only should these senators not be voted, but they "should all be thrown into the mouth of Mt. Pinatubo, together with Estrada." Another caller pointed out that in Islamic countries, thieves end up with chopped off hands; if our corrupt people lived in those countries, it would be, "Look, Ma, no hands."

* * *

A number of people feel quite sad that personalities like ABS-CBN broadcaster Noli de Castro and lawyer Kiko Pangilinan are being seriously considered for inclusion in the Edsa coalition ticket, just because they have *kuno* a higher popularity rating in surveys than former Bulacan Gov. Obet Pagdanganan, Rep. Bobby Tañada and former BIR chief Liway Chato. De Castro and Pangilinan were closely identified with Estrada, with the latter, whose main claim to fame is being Sharon's husband, only converting when the tide had turned. In contrast, Pagdanganan, who was cheated of victory in 1998 by *dagdag-bawas*, and Chato remained steadfast in the opposition, while Tañada, who comes from a long line of nationalists, was one of the House prosecution stars and deserves to be in the lineup.

Ms Macapagal speaks of a "new moral order," and this should permeate our politics as well. It is time that so-called "celebrities" are junked in favor of people with real substance and track record. The fixation on celebrities is an Erap legacy, but it should not be the hallmark of the Macapagal administration. Moreover, surveys are unreliable. If Ms Macapagal and other coalition leaders would work hard for the ticket, and if the support of the people's organizations is marshalled, the coalition candidates will win.

* * *

While on the subject, I definitely am adding my voice to the many who have endorsed Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. I've known Alvarez from our UP days and I submit that the other aspirants to the DENR job cannot hold a candle to him in terms of actual accomplishments for the protection and development of the environment and a vast understanding of its many complicated problems. This is because, as former Senate environment committee chair, he was among the earliest advocates of the protection of the environment. He is also connected to a vast networking of international environmental organizations. In the Senate, he sponsored the ratification of a number of UN treaties and conventions on vital environmental issues such as climate change and depletion of the ozone layer.

Best known as a freedom fighter in the US exile movement and best remembered as author of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and the Department of Energy Law, in the environment field, Alvarez has authored, among others, the Solid Waste Management Act and the Clean Air Act. Over a dozen of his bills are still pending in Congress, including the Clean Water Act, the Total Commercial Log Ban bill and the Land Use Act. Even while the impeachment trial was going on, he succeeded in pushing approval by the House of a bill to protect the Northern Sierra Madre mountain range, with the province of Isabela as protected area and its peripheral areas as buffer zone. This was co-authored by 19 other congressmen from the Northern Luzon bloc. There is a malicious rumor being peddled by some NGOs that Alvarez is a logger, but this is pure canard.

The 'First Gentleman' replies

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"FIRST Gentleman" Mike Arroyo has written in reply to the column item regarding my and a reader's reaction to his presence at the recent meeting between President Macapagal and Chinese business groups. (I'm turning over the full text to the letters editor for publication.)

Arroyo says that with his wife installed as the new President, "it is time for me, as her husband, to remain on the sidelines and preferably disappear from the public scene." Which is why, he says, he feels he should comment "on a possible misinterpretation that may have been caused" by his presence during the courtesy call paid by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. on President GMA.

"For your information, supporters of the Estrada administration launched a vicious black propaganda campaign against then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo in the Filipino-Chinese community after she resigned from former President Estrada's Cabinet. Among the false allegations made against her was that she had an anti-Chinese bias.

"Of course we all know this is not true. But to prove to the Filipino-Chinese community that she has no anti-Chinese bias, she presented me as living proof of her convictions."

As reported in this paper, it turns out that the First Gentleman traces his lineage to Son Tua, a Chinese immigrant who was awarded huge tracts of land in what is now known as Quezon City and Marikina, after helping the Spanish authorities quell a foreign invasion. It was these properties that served as the basis of the fortune of the Tuason clan, to which Mike Arroyo is related on his mother's side.

"It is true that I shook hands with Mr. Lucio Tan, who has been tagged (as) a crony of the former President," adds Arroyo. "But I believe you yourself would agree that rules of civility required me to shake Mr. Tan's hand as well as all of the officials of the Federation when I saw them at the Palace."

Arroyo assures that he will not involve himself in any business or transaction of the government, and that even now they are preparing a list of relatives who would be covered by Administrative Order No. 1 which prohibits presidential relatives from dealing with the government.

* * *

I HOPE that by the time this sees print, President Macapagal has not yet chosen her environment secretary.

Let me put in a good word for Bukidnon Rep. Neric Acosta who is on the shortlist of candidates for the top DENR post. He may not be a "Spice Boy," but Acosta embodies the best qualities of a young, progressive legislator. There is no denying his qualifications, being the holder of a Ph.D. (for which he could very well demand to be addressed as "doctor") in political science, with expertise in environmental policy. Aside from his work as a legislator, he also teaches at the Ateneo School of Government, Xavier University and the University of the Philippines.

But Acosta's understanding of and commitment to protecting the environment is best seen in his work in the House. He sponsored the Clean Air Act in the House, and worked assiduously to shepherd it through the legislative mill until it was signed into law. He has also worked tirelessly for other environmental legislation. In her search for someone who could bring integrity, competence and political savvy to the DENR, I don't think the President could go wrong if she chose Neric Acosta.

* * *

SPEAKING of the environment, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito "Tong" Payumo wrote in reply to the columns on the objections raised by environmentalists regarding the opening of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium. Set to open this summer, the attractions include shows with trained dolphins, seals and false killer whales, an educational tour on the world of marine mammals, as well as a "swim with the dolphins" program.

In previous columns, I mentioned objections raised by environment groups about the manner of processing the permits for the marine attraction as well as the adverse impact of keeping marine mammals in captivity.

On the matter of permits and clearances, Payumo says the SBMA has the authority to issue licenses or clearances through its ecology department. "That includes the authority to operate directly or indirectly or license tourism activities subject to priorities and standards set by Subic authorities."

It took the SBMA ecology department more than two months to study the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) was issued, says Payumo. "The ECC imposed strict requirements for the proponents to comply with specially in the area of pollution control, health and sanitation practices, and care for the animals."

* * *

THE SBMA decided to support the marine exploratorium "precisely to contribute to marine life conservation," says Payumo. "The Philippines is the only country without an aquarium to showcase its rich marine resources (and to think we are an archipelago with more than 7,000 islands!)."

There is more to the exploratorium, now going by the name of "The Ocean Adventure," than a marine mammal show, Payumo points out. "It will have a lecture room, an aquarium that will depict the estuarine, mangrove and coral reef denizens of Subic Bay. An interactive exhibit for marine resource conservation is also a component...we are more interested in the 'edu' part of the edutainment that the program will offer to the viewing public. We also will require the proponents to hire the family members of fishermen employing cyanide and dynamite fishing. We believe that the best way to win these fisherfolk from their destructive ways is through their sons and daughters who will learn the values of conservation while earning (a) livelihood."

Tim Desmond, chair and CEO of the SBME, has also written to give their side on the issue of captive marine mammals. His letter will be discussed in future columns.

Garbage, garbage everywhere

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

YOU would think that during the last three administrations (although the Estrada regime can hardly be described as administering services) with the deleterious effects of not establishing an efficient waste management system, the government would have listened to Odette Alcantara and Narda Camacho sooner. It's really incredible how we insist on waiting until the roof has caved in (the garbage mounds anyway which claimed some lives) before we move. The unlamented Robert Aventajado had two years to institute reforms but perhaps he was too busy with the Abu Sayyaf. That was much more interesting than dealing with entrenched garbage syndicates and so he accomplished zilch.

There must be enlightened mayors somewhere in these 7,000 islands who understand sanitation. The ones I have had the misfortune of dealing with have the irritating habit of agreeing with everything you ask for and then doing exactly the opposite.

Garbage segregation isn't anything new. Of course, it takes more time than just dumping all your waste products in one bag. And whatever would those cronies and relatives who own garbage trucks do with them now if there were little to collect? You must admit that Bongbong Marcos was right when he asked and answered his own question, "*Ano ba ang pinaguusapan dito? Di pera.*" Here it's not "*Cherchez la femme,*" it's "*Cherchez le $.*"

Last Wednesday, Camacho decided to celebrate (wine and all) with media people the 17th year of her involvement with garbage and the signing of the Waste Management Law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that "provides for an ecological solid waste management program, creating the necessary institutional mechanisms and incentives." The law also creates a national commission that doesn't include the League of Mayors. Whether this was an oversight or they finally decided that it would be a waste (!), I can't tell you.

Camacho's program, Linis Ganda, has been promoting garbage recycling and has earned a citation from the United Nations Habitat Summit in Turkey in 1996 and recognition from the Asian Development Bank. It's really in the point of view. Her program is based on the belief that garbage is a natural resource that can be recycled and give much needed income for the poor rather than just for syndicates and garbage truck owners.

Despite the recent tragedy at Payatas and the abysmal sight at Smokey Mountain, there are still individuals who insist on landfills. Aside from the environmental hazard, don't these proponents care about the human lives that were lost? Or have we become so callous that it doesn't matter? What's another life lost considering we're hitting 80 million?

Camacho describes it as a "resource recovery program." She believes it's "not intelligent" to burn resources or turn them into energy because the latter is too expensive. There are moreover two types of solid waste: 'saleable and non-saleable." Saleable includes tin cans, plastics, paper, glass, computer cartridges, and batteries. Seventy percent of garbage consists of packaging material. (Don't ask if this is that other Estrada crony who surfaced during the Cory administration because it's too tiresome. Why can't God turn them into pumpkins so I don't have to look at them?)

Polypropylene is better than polystyrene. In case you don't know the difference, the latter is also known as styrofoam and most of your fast-foods outlets use them. Next time you order take-out, complain. Would you believe that 500 million pieces of tetrapacks are thrown in dumps? These are convertible to chip boards—something I didn't know.

Not everything can be segregated and converted. There's organic waste that requires local government to buy a bio-reactor built by the Department of Science and Technology (not some imported model costing billions) that should be set up in towns and cities. City hall is expected to serve the public by collecting this waste in trucks on specified days and converting it into compost. (Is this expecting too much from elected local officials? Mine went from street parliamentarian to cavorting in Tagaytay Highlands. How was the upward mobility of yours?)

If your public markets and slaughter houses turn you off, you will be happy to know that there are machines called digesters that dispose of organic waste without government having to haul it anywhere. Garden waste (leaves and stuff) are already being processed into charcoal.

It's really about time we involved ourselves more in the community simply because local officials, left alone, have turned them into pigsties. One look at the canals and rivers of Luzon is enough to convince you that there should have been more impeachments or perhaps lynchings.

Here are some useful company names in case you want to organize waste management in your community. San Miguel Corp. and Pacific Glass buy broken and whole bottles, both colored and clear whether for cosmetics or medicine. Republic Glass buys broken flat glass, window glass, fluorescent glass, etc. Bacnotan Steel Mills buys food cans, GI sheets and scrap iron.

Car batteries are recyclable as well as computer cartridges and ink jets. Plastics (with the exception of styrofoam and tetrapacks and some others) are returnable to factories.

Further questions can be directed to G/F DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City. Telephone Nos. 635-3670/2650 to 51, and the e-mail addresses are ctem@csi.com.ph or pbe@psdn.org.ph.

People

YOUNGBLOOD

Marie Christine G. Semira

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE been backpacking through life for 16 years now. I've climbed some mountains, fallen into rivers, got lost and got back on track again. I'm on a journey all right, but then so is everyone else.

I guess no one would care to hear what I have to say about life. What does a 16-year-old know about life, anyway? But I do know one or two things that others take for granted. I would like to write about some of the lessons I've learned on my journey. It is not about the scenery, but about the people I've met along the way.

Lesson No. 1: Some Pinocchios didn't learn.

When I was a kid I thought people were basically good. I mean, they still are for we are all created that way. It's just that when somebody said, "Hey, this is good," I believed that indeed it was good, and if somebody said, "This is bad," I believed it was bad. It took me quite some time to realize people could lie.

It's easy to lie about petty things. I've lied about some things myself. But when I ask an honest question, I expect an honest answer. It just didn't occur to me then that some people thought otherwise.

I'm trying to forget the times when I have been lied to; there's no use remembering them. But I cannot forget that I have met some dishonest persons, and they taught me how to doubt. I also learned that if I wanted the truth, I must be ready to fight to find it.

Lesson 2: Fear leads to anger, and anger leads to hate.

There are some people who are scared to face the truth that they wouldn't let others see it too. Just look around,.they're quite easy to recognize. The biggest liars I have known don't look scared, especially if they're powerful. But they are scared, nonetheless.

One of the biggest fears one can have is to lose everything. One can lose money, face, or friends, and live with it. But to lose all of these things? It takes a very strong character not to be scared.

Thus some people would scream, debate, criticize, lie, accuse, oppress and even kill so that they would not lose everything. It becomes worse when innocent people are harmed in the process.

Lesson 3: Hate leads to destruction.

I've met a lot of people who are different from me. I'm a Catholic schoolgirl. I've met street children. I've met salesladies. I've met businessmen. I've met students of other schools. I've met Protestants. I've met Muslims. And actually, they're not really different. In some aspects, yes, but essentially and deep down, no. They're simply travelers going through the same journey as all of us and trying to find their way. Sometimes they even find the way faster than we do.

But when people are scared, they forget their similarities. When they have made a mistake that would cost them plenty, they quickly blame somebody who is "different":

A thief escapes, and someone says, "I bet it's that dirty kid. Don't all street kids steal?"

A bomb goes off, and he says, "A Muslim must have done it. Aren't all Muslims terrorists?"

A Muslim is arrested for a crime he did not commit and he says, "Don't trust the Christians. All Christians are unjust."

No. No. No. A person may do something wrong, but it does not guarantee that all of his kind are evil just like him.

Sometimes we pay so much attention to differences that we forget our similarities. In our haste to dispose of our trash—literally or otherwise—we send it somewhere far from us, forgetting there are people there, too. So some people have to sacrifice for the common good. But this should only be done when there is no other alternative, not because we are too lazy to think of a better solution.

People are not garbage cans.

Lesson 4: Faith is necessary.

And after all of the injustices mankind has endured since time immemorial, we still must believe that the human race is essentially good.

I'm not being naive. I can see evil occurring—increasing, even. But then we have to remember that there is something that still remains despite all these, something that is always with us, no matter how many and how great our sins may be, and it reassures us that there is no such thing as losing everything. That is faith.

Yes, I believe in God, even if there are so many things that I can't explain about Him. One thing I do know is that He is there. I've seen so many human imperfections, but I've seen so many human triumphs, too. There is Somebody greater than we are. And it is He who helps us go on, even if some of us don't believe in Him.

No matter how lowly a person may be in the eyes of others, he is still worth something. And no matter how bad a person may be, we have no right to give up on him. God doesn't give up on him. (Maybe we ought not to give up on ourselves too.)

Lesson 5: Believe in love.

I believe in love. Cynics would say that at my age I don't know anything about love. But I know people who have been through a lot of trials, and yet they retain their capacity to love.

Love is not just about friendship or marriage. I believe most people care enough about each other not to do anything wrong or anything that hurts others.

I also believe in peace. Not just the peace that lies in silence and harmony, but also in peace that one can find within one's self even in times of social tumult. It is the peace that comes from knowing one has done one's share to alleviate the suffering of others, and knowing that God will take care of the rest.

I believe in hope. I believe that things will be better. I'm not perfect, but I can be better. If I dwell on others' faults nothing good will happen. If I dwell on my losses, I will just be too sad and terrified to do anything.

That's what I have learned about people and life after all these years. Life is beautiful. God loves us. It's up to us to let ourselves feel this beauty and this love.

Marie Christine G. Semira, 16, is a high school senior at the St. Bridget's College in Batangas City. The article contains her reflections on the Estrada impeachment trial, the bombings in Metro Manila, the plan to dump garbage on Semirara and other issues.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Old faces in the Cabinet

"The President has been wittingly allowing old faces and Jurassic practitioners of traditional politics to join her Cabinet."

—Rodolfo Sambajon of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas

Unfavorable atmosphere

"How can there be an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of peace talks when there is a threat of armed offensives and continuous conduct of war?"

—Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada urging the government to declare a ceasefire

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LETTERS

Aspiring for style in the public service

IN HIS column last Feb. 1, Conrado R. Banal III committed some factual errors that need to be corrected.

He erred when he said that I "headed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under Tita Cory." He also wrongly assigned me the task of stopping illegal logging.

I was agrarian reform secretary during the Aquino administration. Obviously I can't be held to account for what was not my responsibility.

Still, the protection of the environment was a major concern to which I devoted a substantial part of my time and energy in the Senate during my two terms. As chair of the committee on the environment, all issues, both local and global, affecting our habitat became my major focus.

Right from the start, my main concern was saving our dying forests. I filed the sustainable forest management bill that sought to balance our need for forest products while at the same time ensuring the sustainable yield of our production woodlands. This comprehensive approach contrasts with the simplistic dream that our forest can be saved by a total log ban that is impossible to enforce but more importantly helps fulfill what it seeks to avert. A total ban will per se cause the rise in the prices of forest products, and this will in turn make profits astronomically high thus making illegal logging worth the risk. A total log ban, like the liquor ban in the United States, triggers the law of unintended consequences, achieving the exact opposite of its aim. Our program sets apart production forest and leaves virgin forest, watershed and environment areas and parks protected.

Almost all major pieces of legislation approved on the environment since Edsa People Power I were initiated or authored by the undersigned. Among these are the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas), which is the mother of all environmental protection programs of the forest habitat, the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan that has ensured the perpetual use of its virgin forests and Palawan's environmental treasures, and a resolution declaring April 22 as Earth Day in the Philippines. The ratification of International Agreements on Climate Change, Ozone Layer Protection, Biodiversity, CITES on endangered species, BASEL Convention on Toxic and Hazardous Wastes were directly initiated by me.

Through negotiations, I was able to commit the three major oil companies in the Philippines to a 300-percent reduction of lead in gasoline, paving the way for the widespread use of unleaded gasoline. That set into motion the Clean Air Act which I principally crafted in the Senate.

Without meaning to be immodest, my efforts have been recognized internationally. I am the lone non-American recipient of the International Public Policy Achievement Award given by the Climate Institute of Washington, D.C. I am vice president for Southeast Asia of the prestigious Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS) based in London and crafted programs that now protect our marine resources. The Manila Accord, an output of the First Conference on Global Warming in Asia that I organized, remains a relevant document in the continuing COP (Conference of Parties) under the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

Banal paints me as a "*trapo*" by a clever juxtaposition with my supposed backers whom he describes in the same breath as also "*trapos*." In my entire public career, I have been consistent in standing up for well-defined principles. I was one of the leaders in the fight against the dictator when it was convenient to keep quiet or even more rewarding to kowtow. For this I lost loved ones.

I fought Erap's poorly veiled attempt to sell our patrimony that he euphemistically called Concord. I was first to initiate the impeachment complaint that ultimately led to President Estrada's ouster.

There is a thin line that separates a creditable public career and a statesmanlike outlook. It is not being right all of the time but a kind consistency and over time a defined style of doing things. Style as defined by Alfred North Whitehead is the "ultimate morality of the mind." I may not have attained that fully but it is a standard of excellence one must always and forever aspire for.—**REP. HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, 7/F LTA Bldg., Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

Sweeteners in power bill fatal to reforms

WE told President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that we would be watching her. We were not joking.

If the President has been assailed for some of her political moves in the past few weeks, it is with good reason. After all, her appointment of people of questionable character and traditional politicians can hardly lead toward substantive changes in the country's political and economic system.

Now, we have even more reason to be wary of the Macapagal administration. Barely a week after Ms Macapagal had stressed on national television her concern over the flaws of the proposed Power Reform Bill, we learn that her administration is actually pushing for the passage of the bill. In fact, the bill's approval is part of Ms Macapagal's agenda for the first 100 days.

We in the Freedom from Debt Coalition have consistently worked for the scrapping of the bill due to its unjust and unresponsive provisions.

The proposed bill emerging in the bicameral conference committee sacrifices competition to favor well-entrenched players in the power industry, especially the Lopezes and the Aboitizes. These are the in-laws of Joseph Estrada and the two Osmeña cousins who have been most insistent on approving the bill even during the impeachment trial. Among other things, the bicameral version of the bill will discourage the entry of new foreign and domestic players into the power distribution as well as generation sub-sectors of the industry. The upshot of this is that the competition among many players that is supposed to force down prices will not happen.

To entice new players to enter even when the "playing field" is clearly not leveled, sweeteners have been introduced. Only the assets of the National Power Corp. will be privatized, while its liabilities will be passed on to taxpayers and consumers. New players in the generation sector are being given the assurance that in the early years they won't have to compete to have a share of the market.

These sweeteners will be fatal to any reform of the power sector. The first one will ensure that the public sector deficit under the Macapagal administration will be unmanageable in the medium-term. The second sweetener simply implies that the scope for competition, especially during the early years will be nil and there will be no way for prices to go down except through subsidies.

The power sector reform law is the best case study of rent-seeking through privatization under the Estrada administration. It shows us that privatization does not necessarily lead to reform, especially when it undermines true competition.

Also, the bill ignores the most controversial issue that has bled the Napocor of billions of pesos. Under the proposed bill, the onerous contracts the Napocor entered into with independent power producers will still be paid through the assumption by the national government of the Napocor's liabilities. Despite the disadvantageous arrangement with the IPPs, the bill intends to make taxpayers and consumers shoulder the burden of these obligations.

Outside of the budget, this will be the first piece of legislation that President Macapagal will have to deal with. The President should get the advice of Representatives Joker Arroyo, Oscar Moreno, Sergio Apostol and Wigberto Tañada who all voted against the bill.

There is no question that reforms should be introduced in the Philippine power sector. But with the web of interests that has held up the power sector bill as well as its other unjust provisions, President Macapagal will serve the nation well by scrapping the flawed Power Reform Bill. Moreover, her administration should start undertaking studies that will involve civil society groups toward the institutionalization of socially responsive reforms in the power industry.—**JUDE ESGUERRA, vice president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., Central District, Quezon City**

Full of passion–and inaccuracies

THIS is in response to the letter of Ricardo Boncan last Feb. 5. His passion in writing it was matched only by the inaccuracy of his statements. It was written without the benefit of knowing my father, Oscar Lopez, and his incapacity for hypocrisy, without reading the full text of his speech and without the knowledge of the family's participation in Edsa II. I will thus send him by e-mail a copy of his speech and briefly enlighten him now on the other two points.

My father has always been a man of honor. He has his ideals and his values, and he has always lived by them. In no instance, either as his children or as his employees, did we ever have reason to doubt his sincerity. Thus, it was with sadness and anger that I read Boncan's letter which unjustly accused my father of hypocrisy. He could never do that.

The Senate blue ribbon committee hearings, the impeachment trial and Edsa II were trying times for our family due to some of our members' relationships with the accused. Those events tested the values passed down to us by our elders on both family unity and love of country.

It was a time though to stand for what we believed in and to act accordingly. We did. And by doing so we hope we did not alienate people we hold dear.

I will not go into details on the participation of each of our family members. Suffice it to say that we were with the rest of the Filipino people in mind, in spirit and in deed. Singularly and collectively, the family proved we would always be first and foremost fiercely Filipino.—**RINA LOPEZ BAUTISTA, 21-A Mariposa Villa, Quezon City**

Governance is not just about people

I WISH the INQUIRER editorials, columns and other opinion pieces would not just discuss personalities in government, but also the proposed programs of the new administration (poverty alleviation, peace talks with the MILF and the NDF, the budget deficit, good governance) and suggest how these issues can best be addressed. I understand the concern over the new Cabinet appointments, but good government is not just about people. It is also about programs and vision.

By focusing so much on personalities, the INQUIRER is strengthening a political culture centered on personalities rather than on programs. I am not saying that one should not criticize inappropriate appointments, but there must be balance somewhere.—**ATHENA GOROSPE, Pasadena, California, USA**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

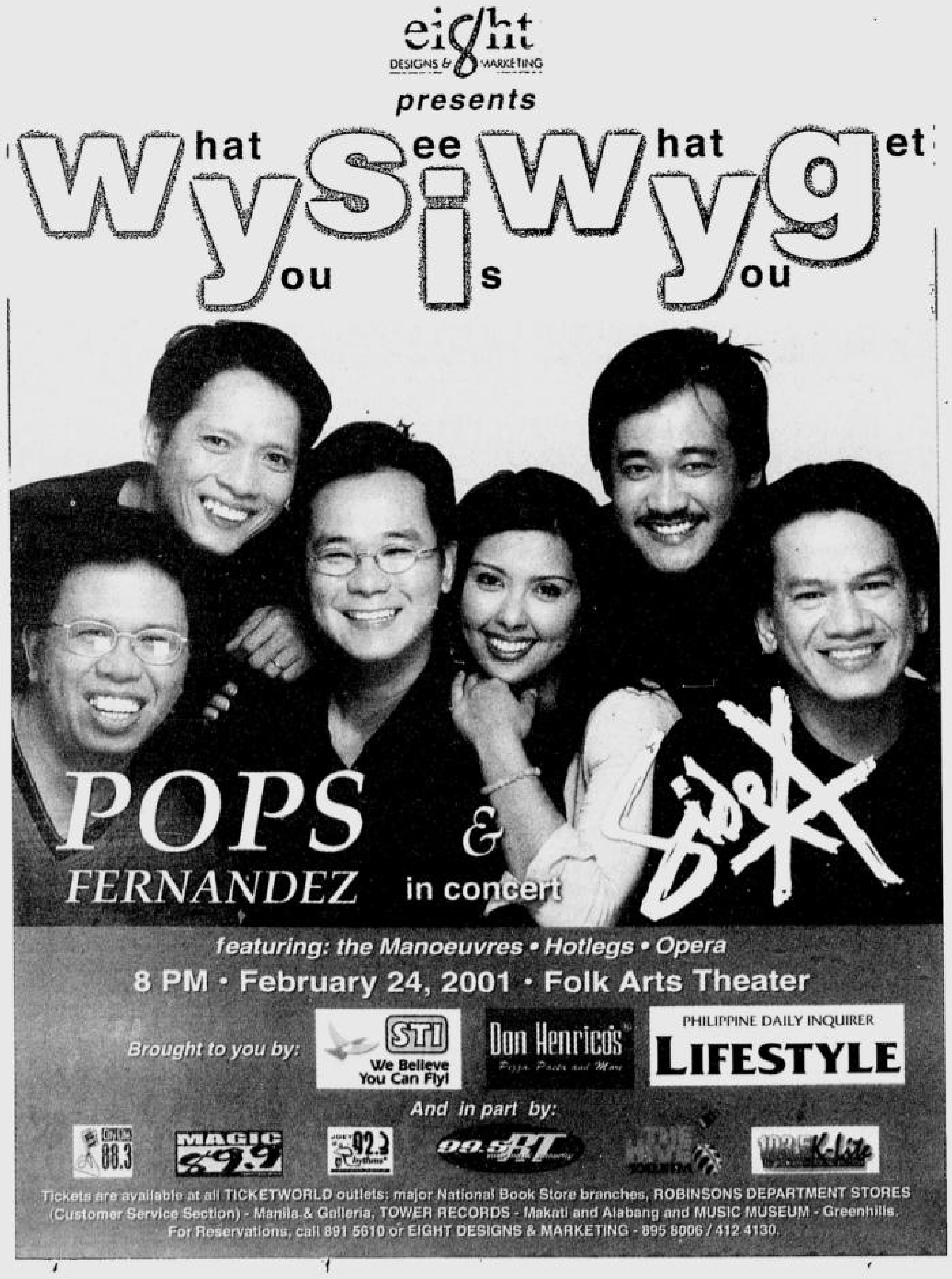
Risks of putting Miriam in international court

THE NOMINATION of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago made by the Department of Foreign Affairs during the Estrada administration for election to the UN International Court of Justice should be withdrawn and not endorsed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The senator may be a legal scholar, but she is not emotionally and temperamentally fit for the position, judging by her past behavior and record as a bureaucrat, judge and senator. People who know her say that she is unpredictable and can go berserk at the slightest provocation. Her aberrant behavior during one of the sessions of the impeachment court, when she berated two ladies in the audience, was an affront to the court. She explained later, as an excuse for her behavior, that when she was a regional trial court judge in Quezon City, no one in the audience could talk or move about, on pain of contempt.

She has written commentaries on several law subjects, but being learned in the law is not the only qualification that a justice of the International Court of Justice must have. More important is that a justice should have an even temper and the ability to weigh the evidence without bias and to argue dispassionately. I shudder at the thought of what would happen if Santiago is challenged by her colleagues, on a point of law. Will she lecture them about the niceties of the law in her Ilonggo-American accent? Will she tell them of the many cases she has decided as a trial judge in Quezon City? Will she berate them for not conforming with her decision on the guilt or innocence of an accused? No one should doubt for a moment she can do all these things.

To President Macapagal I say: Please don't risk an international incident that will discredit and bring shame and disgrace to our country. We have had enough of these under former President Joseph Estrada. There are many senior retired members of the bench and the bar who are more experienced and better equipped mentally, emotionally and temperamentally than the lady from Iloilo.—**DELFIN L. GONZALEZ, 18 Doña Ines cor. Ormoc, Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City**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Black was beautiful at Edsa

HIGH BLOOD

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

SUDDENLY, it was the most popular and highly visible color (or non-color) in the anti-Erap premises: at the Edsa Shrine, at the Ayala business center and in rural and urban neighborhoods. Like yellow during People Power I, black had become the fashionable color of protest of the opposition in People Power II.

It began as an idea before midnight of Jan. 16 after the 11 senator-judges voted to block the opening of the controversial second Equitable-PCI Bank envelope. Dismayed by the frustrating outcome of the voting, people who had been watching the marathon Senate proceedings on television began calling one another, texting messages to articulate their outrage by wearing black. To mourn the death of democracy, they said passionately.

The texting also suggested other forms of protests and soon noise barrages erupted everywhere, bonfires were lit and mini-rallies materialized in neighborhoods, particularly where some pro-Erap senators lived, in particular, Sen. Francisco Tatad, whose preemptive move of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s ruling triggered the instantaneous popular wrath.

That early, the furious people who rushed out of their homes were caught by TV cameras in casual attire—shorts, house dresses, loose white or colored T-shirts, nondescript blouses meant for lounging comfort and hardly for fighting readiness.

But by the time the Edsa throng began to swell in the early hours of Wednesday morning, Jan. 17, the decision to mount the black "warfare" had begun to catch up with the angry mood, which now spread citywide. Everyone, but everyone, was showing up at Edsa in various types and shapes of black apparel.

So when I decided to go to the Edsa Shrine that afternoon, I knew I also had to wear black. I had decided to be at Edsa this time, having missed being there in 1986 and I vowed not to miss this second chance of destiny. My being 73 years old now wasn't going to be an excuse to pass up this chance.

What to wear? Having given away the mourning clothes I had worn for some dearly departed, I realized I would be sartorially handicapped, having in my wardrobe only blouses and shirts in white prints on black background. One was a black silk blouse with white circles which I used to wear on New Year's Eve, following superstitious belief about attracting prosperity vibes this way. But I decided that the New Year mood would be untimely. Another was a blouse with light color prints and floral designs against a black overlay. This wasn't emphatic enough, I thought. So I settled for a short-sleeved blouse with white and black squares which, I rationalized, somehow symbolized the uncertain checkmating political situation.

With that "combat" apparel, I set forth for my appointment with history at the Edsa Shrine. Soon I was at Robinson's Galleria taking my favorite short cut through the mall to the shrine.

And that was where I saw that so many others had come in black. The color was a monotony in different variations. Men in black shirts and T-shirts, ladies in fashionable figure-hugging blouses, some of them in complementing slacks or skirt. Why, even the mannequins in shop windows had been draped in sleek, shimmering black gowns or set up with sporty black togs.

The succeeding scenes I saw were even more spirit-uplifting, if unbelievable. Peripatetic people in various styles of black apparel loitering around the shrine premises. Militants bunched in front of the stage, around the stage and on the stage asserted their collective bond in black. The atmosphere was hardly sepulchral, despite the pervasive color, for the people were in an upbeat mood, laughing, cheering, dancing, waving, swaying to the music, singing, shouting, clapping, the collective movement providing a heart-stirring counterpoint to the uncertainty of the ongoing protest action.

Inside the chapel itself, where devotees occupied the pews randomly, the predominance of black heightened my sense of shock as more people came in to fill every available space in the already cramped chapel where Jaime Cardinal Sin was about to say the 5 p.m. Mass.

Where I sat I was practically surrounded by a veritable sea of humanity in black moving as one as it followed the ritual of the Mass, standing, kneeling, sitting, bowing the head in a remarkable color-coding.

The only contrasting color was in the figure of the cardinal who was performing the rites in his flaming red vestments, the color of his cardinalate, now fittingly poetic considering that as the main protagonist in the "revolt," he was appropriately adversarial in his battle gear. Touché!

After the Mass, the people filed out into the open again to join the goings-on, listening to the speeches blared from loudspeakers positioned all over the place, munching on sandwiches being distributed by volunteers, purchasing resign memorabilia, striking up instant friendships with erstwhile strangers, or simply looking around.

And as the crowd thickened, so did the political color of the day—and night—spread. On stage, artists and movie stars showed up to contribute their bit in song, wearing trendy shirts and blouses with embossed monograms or stenciled slogans. Government officials, celebrities, came in black blazers, coats or cardigans. Seminarians and priests in white cassocks wore black armbands, held black bags, sported black caps or headbands. The nuns were conveniently carrying the protest color in their black veils. *Colegialas* in school uniforms slung black shawls or sweaters over their shoulders. Indeed, the Edsa Shrine premises were literally crawling with human beings in every conceivable variation of black.

Was it a monotony of scenery? It was not. That night and in the succeeding days and nights, highlighted by the glare of sunlight and the focus of stage and television klieg lights, the people stood out in a common bonding in black. And it was beautiful.

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy is a retired journalist.

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

UNTIL VIOLENCE STOPS

Sharon vows not to resume peace talks

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon has vowed not to resume Middle East peace talks until the violence stops, after a car bomb attack in Jerusalem highlighted the problems facing his incoming administration.

The powerful car bomb exploded in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem on Thursday, sending tremors through Israel just two days after right-wing leader Sharon was elected prime minister. There were no serious injuries.

A previously unknown Palestinian group, the "Popular Palestinian Resistance Forces" claimed responsibility for the blast, saying it was designed to counter Sharon's "Zionist arrogance."

Sharon reacted by telling the number two of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Mahmoud Abbas, that there would be no resumption of the peace process while the violence—which has gripped the region since September—continues.

Israeli public radio reported that Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, had telephoned Sharon to congratulate him on his election win and to express a Palestinian desire to return to peace talks.

Sharon told him the "prior condition (to renewed talks) is a complete end to violence," the report said.

"Israel demands total calm and a battle by the Palestinian Authority against terrorism," Sharon was quoted as saying.

In any case the peace proposals put forward by former US president Bill Clinton no longer stand, according to an announcement in Washington Thursday.

"The ideas and parameters that were discussed in the last few months were president Clinton's parameters, and when he left office, they were no longer a US proposal or a presidential proposal," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

He told reporters that while Washington wanted to remain in touch with both sides about possibly resuming negotiations, the United States envisioned no specific starting point for such talks.

"It's not necessarily up to us to prescribe the starting point," Boucher said. "It's up to the parties to agree."

US President George W. Bush urged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to help break the latest cycle of Middle East violence, shortly before the car bomb tore through an Orthodox Jewish Jerusalem neighborhood. *AFP*

ULTRA-ORTHODOX Jews react after a car bomb exploded in a religious neighborhood of Jerusalem, Feb. 8, hurling shards of metal through the air, hurting one person, police said. REUTERS

One of Thailand's richest businessmen is 23rd PM

BANGKOK—Thaksin Shinawatra, one of Thailand's richest businessmen, was formally elected yesterday as the country's new prime minister after his party won an unprecedented mandate in last month's general elections.

In a historic vote in the 500-member parliament, Thaksin received 340 votes while 127 went against him. There were 30 abstentions including Thaksin. The house speaker and two deputy speakers traditionally do not vote.

The vote, which completed a constitutional formality, was a foregone conclusion following his Thai Rak Thai party's landslide victory in the Jan. 6 elections.

THAKSIN

In another formality, King Bhumibol Adulyadej will endorse Thaksin's election, mostly likely later Friday, to install him as Thailand's 23rd prime minister.

Thaksin sat impassively most of the time during the vote, and smiled once or twice. At one point, he was seen speaking on his mobile phone

Thaksin, 51, who entered politics only six years ago, is the first businessman to hold the prime minister's post. He handed control of his telecommunications empire to his wife and son just before the elections, but is still believed to hold the business reins

In two rounds of the general elections, Thai Rak Thai, or Thai Love Thai party won 248 seats in the lower house of parliament, the House of Representatives. Two other parties in his coalition hold 77 seats, giving it a comfortable 325-seat majority. Besides, the coalition has been promised support by 15 deputies of two smaller parties *AP*

Cops investigating missing British woman find remains

TOKYO—Police searching for a missing British bar hostess said Friday they found parts of a body buried in a cave on a beach near Tokyo and were trying to ascertain if the remains were hers.

Investigators have been looking for Lucie Blackman, 22, since July, when she disappeared after telling a friend she was going on a drive to the ocean with a client.

The case has been closely followed by the Japanese and British media and has underscored concerns over the safety of women in Japan's night clubs and sex industry.

Blackman's father, Tim Blackman, said Japanese police had told him of the discovery

"They have told us that something has been found but they haven't been able to confirm who it is," he said from his home on the Isle of Wight, off the southern coast of England

The remains were found near the seaside apartment of a Japanese businessman who was arrested in October and accused of drugging and raping several women including a Canadian hostess and another Briton, police said.

Police have not yet linked Friday's discovery to Blackman, a Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesperson said on condition of anonymity. But he said investigators are focusing their search for clues into the woman's disappearance on the area around the beach, just southwest of Tokyo.

A police spokesperson said the unearthed body parts first included a hand and a pair of feet. The head and the torso were found later. No other details were immediately known. The remains were taken to Tokyo for identification, which was expected as early as Saturday

Joji Obara, 48, has been charged with raping four women since 1996 after inviting them to his condominium and incapacitating them with drugs. He has yet to be charged in relation to Blackman, however

The Blackman family has repeatedly come to Tokyo pleading for police and lawmakers to make the search for Lucie a top priority, and calling on the public to give police any potentially helpful information. But Tim Blackman said Friday he had no immediate plans to fly to Japan.

Thousands of leaflets with Blackman's photograph have been distributed around Tokyo, and her family is offering $150,000 for information leading to her discovery.

Obara was allegedly regular at bars in Tokyo where foreign women pour drinks for clients. In a statement provided to the media by his lawyer after his arrest, Obara said he met Blackman only once at a bar but denied responsibility for her disappearance. *AP*

The shooting of rare animals will remain unknown.

Unless we shoot back.

WWF

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

INQUIRER

Wahid orders supporters to end violence

PASARUAN, Indonesia—President Abdurrahman Wahid Friday ordered his fanatical supporters to end days of violent protests over attempts to have him impeached for corruption and hit back at his accusers by threatening to prosecute 10 national figures for graft.

Speaking at a mosque in his home province of East Java, Wahid ruled out disbanding parliament—which last week censured him as a first step toward impeachment—after earlier reports that he had urged the military to impose martial law.

"You can be hot in your heart but you must stay cool in your head," he told a crowd of more than 5,000 followers.

Wahid said that the government would intensify a crackdown on endemic corruption. Within three weeks, "we will catch at least 10 people and these people will be big fish," he said.

"Those who want topple (me) will be toppled themselves," Wahid said.

He condemned a parliamentary inquiry, which found that he had acted improperly in two corruption scandals but failed to provide evidence.

The commission's findings formed the basis for parliament's formal censure vote last week. This could lead to formal impeachment proceedings within four months.

"Their working methods were all over the place and . . . cannot be accepted," Wahid said, adding that he had formed a team of legal and political experts to refute the panel's allegations.

Meanwhile, his popular deputy, who's support is crucial to Wahid's political survival, condemned the political violence as undemocratic.

"This should not happen in a modern democratic country," Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri said in her first public statement since Indonesia's political crisis erupted last week.

"I am very much against violence," she said in the central Javanese city of Solo.

In the past week, tens of thousands of Wahid's supporters in East Java have burned and ransacked the offices of rival political parties that have called for his impeachment.

Police have had to resort to the use of tear gas and warning shots to disperse the crowds.

Despite's Wahid's call for calm, many in the crowd carried banners vowing to fight on.

"Am I wrong to wage a holy war in the name of a Muslim cleric who is the legitimate president?" read one.

Hashim Nur, a spokesperson for a paramilitary group loyal to Wahid's political party, said attacks on Wahid's rivals—including the Golkar party which used to support former dictator Suharto and is now backing moves against Wahid—would continue. *AP*

PRESIDENT Abdurrahman Wahid is surrounded by security as he leaves a mosque after addressing thousands of supporters in the east Java town of Pasuruan near Surabaya, Feb. 9. Wahid tried to calm fanatical supporters who vowed to continue their increasingly violent protests. REUTERS

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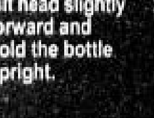
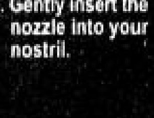
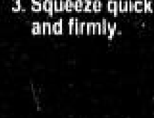


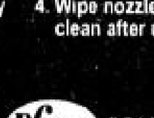
1. Tilt head slightly forward and hold the bottle upright.



2. Gently insert the nozzle into your nostril.



3. Squeeze quickly and firmly.



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Report says 150 Afghans killed by cold, hunger

KABUL—Bitter cold and hunger has claimed the lives of more Afghans, including 103 children, living in squalor camps with thousands of others fleeing the effects of Afghanistan's devastating drought.

The latest deaths occurred over the past three days in the camps of Baghlan province, Maulvi Abdul Raqib, the Taliban minister for refugees told reporters here Thursday.

"Our people are dying. We appeal to the international community, especially the Islamic countries, to help," he said.

Afghanistan's worst drought in 30 years has affected 12 million people of its 20 million population. More than 500 people died earlier this month in western Herat, where 80,000 refugees are living in six camps established by the United Nations.

Another 155,000 refugees are living in squalor in Pakistan, and thousands more are stranded on Afghanistan's northern border with Tajikistan.

UN officials were trying to verify the latest deaths in remote Baghlan province, 200 km north of the capital Kabul.

Expressing deep concern at "the rapidly worsening humanitarian situation," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Kenzo Oshima to travel to Afghanistan next week to assess the problems and mobilize an effective international response.

He reiterated an appeal for urgent help for shelter for the refugees, and called for international donors to fulfill the $229 million for assistance to Afghanistan this year. So far, less than $14 million has been contributed, UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said in New York.

Several countries, including the United States, Japan, Canada, England, Norway and Sweden, have responded to UN appeals for aid, pledging $10.8 million in relief.

A plane carrying relief goods from the United States arrived Wednesday in Pakistan's northern border city of Peshawar. Two more planes loaded with blankets, tents and medicines are to fly to Heart later this week, said Mark Wentworth, spokesperson for the US Embassy in Pakistan.

Pakistan has also pledged humanitarian assistance.

Impoverished Afghanistan, shattered by two decades of civil war, has faced international isolation and UN sanctions because of their alleged support to Islamic militants, including Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden, and their poor human rights record. *AP*

Pakistan: Taliban to allow Bin Laden trial

ISLAMABAD—Afghanistan's Taliban rulers are prepared to allow Osama bin Laden—sought by the United States on terrorism charges—to be tried by Islamic clerics, perhaps in a third country, Pakistan's interior minister said Thursday.

It was the Taliban's latest attempt to try to appease the United Nations, which has imposed sanctions on Afghanistan's ruling militia to press demands that they hand over Bin Laden for trial in the United States or a third country.

The United States accuses Bin Laden of masterminding the bombing of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. He is also a suspect in last year's bombing of the USS Cole, in which 17 American sailors were killed.

Pakistani Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider, returning from a two-day trip to Afghanistan, said the Taliban were prepared to hand over Bin Laden for trial by there Islamic clerics, one each from Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan, and a third to be nominated by the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Washington has been pressing Pakistan, considered the Taliban government's staunchest ally, to use its influence to secure Bin Laden's surrender.

The Taliban, who rule more than 95 percent of Afghanistan, have rejected the pressure to release Bin Laden, saying he can stay in Afghanistan until any terrorist activity is proven.

"All the Taliban leaders, including Mullah Mohammed Omar, have said that they don't want to export extremism or terrorism," Haider said, adding that the US administration should pursue the latest offer.

A leading Egyptian newspaper reported Thursday that Pakistan's military ruler has suggested that Bin Laden be tried in a third country, following the precedent of the recent trial of two Libyans in the Lockerbie bombing case.

"If that was possible with the Lockerbie case, why not try it again, and even in the same place," the Netherlands, Gen. Pervez Musharraf was quoted as saying in the Al-Ahram daily.

Haider said Musharraf's remarks were in line with the Taliban's proposal. *AP*

PEACE DIALOGUE

Colombia president spends night in guerilla territory

LOS POZOS, Colombia—Shunning the comfort of the presidential palace for a bed on an abandoned military base, President Andres Pastrana was spending the night in guerrilla territory in hopes that a second day of talks can revive Colombia's flagging peace process.

The president's surprise overnight stay in a southern rebel safe haven followed what he termed a "very productive" summit Thursday with guerrilla leader Manuel Marulanda. The two were set to resume conversations yesterday amid expectations for breakthroughs toward ending the South American country's 37-year conflict.

Pastrana's trip into rebel territory with only a light security detail was itself seen as an audacious step.

Leaving his safety largely in the hands of the enemy, the president flew into the FARC-held town of San Vicente del Caguan Thursday morning, then took a helicopter to a nearby village where the meeting with Marulanda took place.

A few presidential guards were dwarfed by the presence of several hundred heavily armed guerrillas. However, the day of talks went without incident, and rebels and members of Pastrana's security team even exchanged smiles and gifts.

While appearing confident they would reach accords, neither side offered details about the discussions.

Pastrana returned to San Vicente del Caguan, and put up for the night in officers' quarters at the Army base on a dark highway a fifteen minute drive from town. The base was emptied of some 2,500 troops as part of Pastrana's decision to cede San Vicente del Caguan and four nearby towns to the FARC at the outset of the peace process two years ago.

The president hoped that by handing the guerrillas the Switzerland-sized territory, the goodwill would translate into FARC concessions. But the talks have yielded little but disenchantment among Colombians, who are increasingly fed up with rebel attacks and kidnappings.

In their third face-to-face encounter, Pastrana is under political pressure to either get the process back on track or take back the rebel safe haven. At the very least, he is expected to demand the FARC return to formal peace talks they abandoned in November.

The two sides have yet to even open formal discussions on a 12-point peace agenda contemplating sweeping political and social reforms in return for the FARC's eventual disarmament.

Marulanda, for his part, is demanding that Pastrana crack down on right-wing paramilitary forces waging a campaign of massacres against suspected rebel sympathizers, and to scale back an anti-drug offensive backed by $1.3 billion in US military aid. *AP*

COLOMBIA President Andres Pastrana (right) hugs Commander Manuel Marulanda of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC upon the chief executive's arrival in Los Pozoz in Colombia's southern demilitarized zone, Feb. 8. Pastrana met Marulanda in an attempt to revive a two-year-old peace drive. REUTERS

Indian royals help other quake victims

DHRANGADHRA, India—The prince and princess of Dhrangadhra have slept under thick quilts on a stone pedestal in the courtyard of their earthquake-damaged palace for the past two weeks, with pieces of cracked balustrades and broken pillars around them.

They awoke Thursday to the screech of green parrots and twitter of chipmunks and set to work, sending out relief trucks of food and plastic tent-making materials to villages that were once part of the principality of Dhrangadhra but are now covered with rubble from India's 7.7-magnitude quake.

Their other tasks for the morning were to erect temporary schoolrooms outside the palace walls—replacing the quake-damaged ones inside—and to check on the work at the stonecarving center where craftsmen never get laid off, even when the nearest harbor is closed and the urns, pots and garden seats won't be shipped to customers for weeks.

In a country where many of the wealthy maharajahs and the maharanis—heirs of defunct kingdoms—are mocked for their self-indulgent lifestyles and despised by common folk for their lordly ways, Maharaj Kumar Siddhrajsinji and his wife, Maharaj Kavrani Kanchande, have set out to be different.

The prince, 50, known by the honorific title of Sidd Bapu, is working with his wife, 43, to preserve the heritage and improve the lives of the 93,000 people who once were the subjects of the prince's father. The elder Maharaja came to the throne of the small, arid state in the center of Gujarat in his teens, and when India became independent in 1947, merged his territory into the nation as did the other maharajas, maharanis, nawabs and princes.

The glossy photograph-filled books sold to tourists showing the maharajahs in their collection of cars, living in gilded rooms from one party to the next, do not describe the Dhrangadhra royalty.

The few rooms the couple use in the palace are furnished in a homey way with antique dark wooden tables, blue Chinaware, sofas, dish cupboards and wall hangings.

There are no golden taps on the bathroom sink, as some of the more ostentatious Indian royal palaces are known to have. The toilet in this palace is flushed with a bucket of water, just as in the homes of the people who live around them.

Strolling through the sandy dirt in front of the palace gate in his rubber beach sandals, khaki pants and paint-stained shirt, Sidd Bapu said he had spent one year working as a banker in Paris because "my father insisted that one of us learn something about business."

His elder brother, Jaisinhji Jhala, teaches anthropology at Temple University in the United States.

Sidd Bapu has used his business knowledge to set up stonecarving and silversmith workshops, to preserve ancient Gujarat crafts and provide jobs.

"It's very important for us to restore confidence in these people after the earthquake because there is a tremendous tendency to migrate," said the prince. "If it happens, there will be a loss of a culture, a history, an art that has been around for 5,000 years." *AP*

Private citizen Bill Clinton still in public scrutiny

WASHINGTON—Bill Clinton is still raising the ire of critics in his early days as a public citizen, with Congress on Thursday scrutinizing the former president's decision to pardon tycoon Marc Rich.

The Rich affair, compounded by criticism of Clinton for leaving the White House with a haul of valuable gifts, was examined Thursday by the House of Representatives' government reform committee, chaired by Republican Dan Burton of Indiana, a virulent Clinton critic.

"Congress has an obligation to find out if this pardon was appropriate," Burton said as he launched into questioning of Jack Quinn, a former White House lawyer who represented Rich in his campaign for a presidential pardon.

A billionaire international commodities trader, Rich fled the United States for Switzerland in 1983 in the face of accusations that he failed to pay more than $48 million in taxes, described by former Assistant US Attorney Morris Weinberg as one of the biggest tax frauds in US history.

He was also charged with buying more than $200-million worth of oil from Iran in violation of a US trade embargo at the very moment Tehran was holding US diplomats hostage.

In answer to Burton's questioning, Quinn denied any wrongdoing by his client and rejected suggestions of wrongdoing in the pardon procedure.

"I want to emphasize that the process I followed was one of transparency," he told the committee.

Clinton has publicly denied allegations that his pardon for the fugitive financier had anything to do with generous donations made to the Democratic Party by Rich's ex-wife—who invoked her constitutional right against self-incrimination and did not respond to questions the committee sent her. *AFP*

Moon urges media to oppose corruption

TOKYO-Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the World Media Association, is urging the media to oppose corruption, defend human dignity and freedom and crusade against all forms of injustice.

In a message to the recently ended 18th World Media Conference here, Moon, who was not allowed to enter Japan, said that to carry out these duties, "the media must become the conscience of society."

A source close to Moon said he was barred on the strength of a rule that persons who have served a prison sentence of more than a year shall be excluded from this country. The source said Moon had served a year's sentence for an apparently trumped-up tax evasion case.

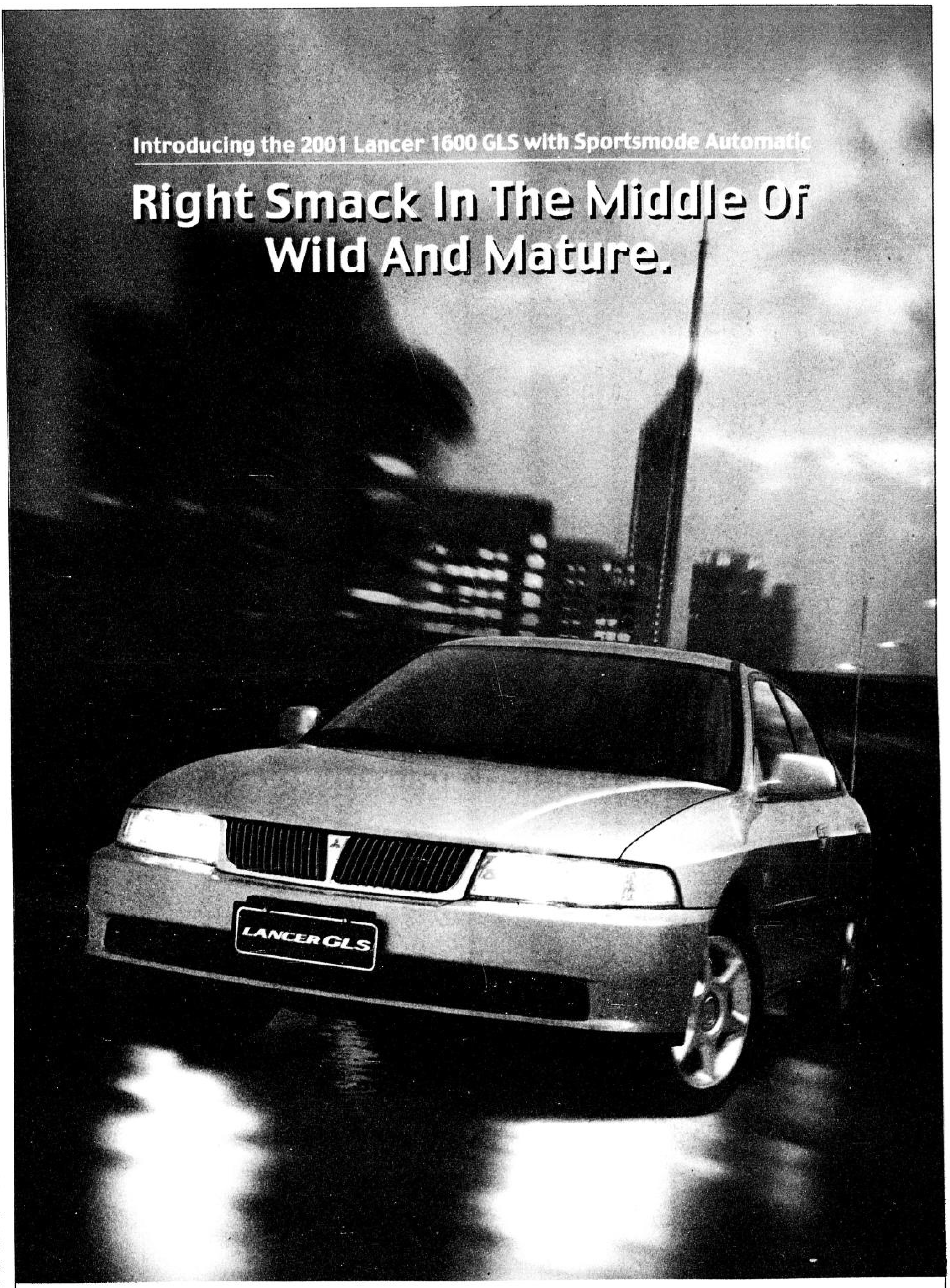
The real reason for the barring of Moon, the source said, could be the fear of Japanese authorities that he might influence the thinking of many Japanese. There is still a residue of the decades-long hostility between Koreans and Japanese.

Discussing the impact of media on society, Moon said, "In the political arena, the media, at times, can create a public opinion environment where a government can either become highly respected or put in a difficult position that could lead to its collapse."

He added that media could also lead a society "to maintain a high level of moral standards or mislead it into moral confusion and chaos."

Moon said the media must be free and must be self-governing. "And a self-governing media must be a moral media," he added.

Still on the political function of the media, Moon said that "people who live in freedom know that a free press can be the strongest deterrent to dictatorship."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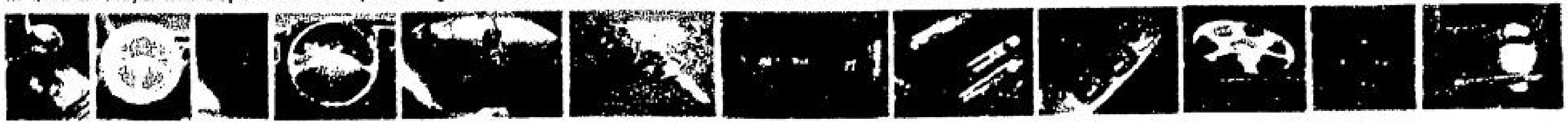

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Hike in troops' benefits vowed

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—President Macapagal-Arroyo had promised to increase the amount of financial assistance to soldiers who were wounded or killed in action and to improve the benefits they are receiving from the government.

In her visit to Camp Tecson Wednesday, the President thanked the 1,000 soldiers stationed here for their role in the preservation of the Constitution that helped her assume the presidency last month.

She added that she had asked the Presidential Management Staff to increase from P50,000 to P100,000 the financial benefits for families of soldiers killed in action, and promised to provide for the housing needs of more than 50,000 soldiers living outside military camps. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Medical mission

NAGA CITY- -About 36 *balikbayan* medical volunteers from Michigan treated persons with cleft lips and problems on palate, thyroid, hernia, hemorrhoids, tumors and other diseases during a six-day medical mission here. Naga City Mayor Sulpicio Roco Jr. said the group was headed by Bicol Association of Michigan president Gil Manly Bulalong and was here on invitation of the city government. The entourage was composed of 11 doctors, 12 nurses and 13 auxiliary personnel, all Filipinos but who are now US citizens *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

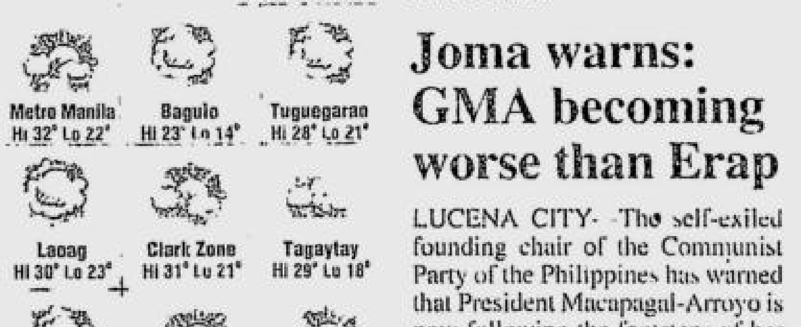
Seeds vs El Niño

PILI, Camarines Sur—The Department of Agriculture Bicol regional office had intensified the production and promotion of certified seeds to help farmers in the 54 rice areas called Special Area Farm Development Zones. DA Bicol regional director Fe Laysa said more farmers used certified seeds which contributed to high growths in domestic production during the last three years. She said enough flow of certified seeds is vital against the expected ill effects of the El Niño, which weather specialists predicted to hit the country by the middle of this year *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Southern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA



Compiled by: Chona B. Galang, PDI Research

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New PNP chief orders war waged on C. Luzon 'jueteng'

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, on Friday directed the Central Luzon police, the base of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, to pursue an all-out campaign against illegal gambling.

Mendoza issued the instruction through a text message that Director Cecilio Penilla read while he delivered Mendoza's speech during the regional police's anniversary rites here.

"Enforce the no-take policy. Go on (an) all-out campaign against 1602 (illegal gambling)." Mendoza said.

The instruction was addressed to Chief Supt. Roberto Calinisan, regional police director.

However, there were no specific instructions to capture Pineda, who is believed to be hiding in Australia, or bust his jueteng links in the region and in parts of Northern and Southern Luzon, Penilla told the INQUIRER.

No warrant of arrest was issued against Pineda, who was believed to be close to both ousted President Joseph Estrada and his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, regional police intelligence officials said.

Despite Pineda's absence since October last year, the illegal numbers game has gone unabated, operating in a guerrilla-like manner in the region, Calinisan said.

Mendoza said the no-take policy is also enforced in the run-up to the May elections, warning that it was "not impossible for candidates, especially local candidates to try to secure the alliance and allegiance of the police for their vested political interests."

"The police must remain apolitical and not allow itself to be subverted by the demands of political patrons or economic kingpins," Mendoza said in his prepared speech, copies of which were distributed to local reporters.

Admitting he had detractors, Mendoza said he was determined to enforce the law without fear or favor.

Gearing for an "honest, orderly and peaceful elections" or HOPE 2001, police on Wednesday busted a private army believed hired by politicians for vendetta killings.

The police's regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested four members of the Vendivil Gang in a raid Wednesday in Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

Police seized seven high-powered firearms and bullets during the raid, Supt. Francisco Villaroman, CIDG regional director, said.

Police were looking into the possible involvement of the gang in the slaying last January of Cesar Velayo, a defeated mayoral candidate in Gapan, or in last year's killing of former Lanao del Norte Rep. Mario Hisuler in Jaen, Nueva Ecija.

Elections, Mendoza warned, are "necessarily personal and partisan."

"It is a fierce competition among candidates and their supporters. In truth and in fact, it is basically a divisive contest and not a friendly competition at all," he added. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bill passed to make Tanjay city

BY ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY- -Both chambers of Congress have approved on final reading a bill converting the town of Tanjay into a city

A jubilant Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II told the INQUIRER that the Senate and the House of Representatives passed the bill without any hitches, barely a few hours before the 11th Congress adjourned on Thursday

"The legislative portion is finished except for the final trimmings." Macias said.

After the formal signing of the bill by ranking Senate and House officials, it would be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo for signing into law

Tanjay was one of the 16 towns nationwide that had been converted to cities yesterday

Tanjay will be the fifth city in Negros Oriental, and the third in the second congressional district of the province.

The other cities are Dumaguete, the capital of Negros Oriental, and Bais City, in the second district, Canlaon City in the first district, and newly created Bayawan City in the third district

For a town to become a city, its land area should be at least 100 square meters. The town should also have an income of at least P20 million for the last three years before it became a city and a population of at least 150,000.

Joma warns: GMA becoming worse than Erap

LUCENA CITY- -The self-exiled founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines has warned that President Macapagal-Arroyo is now following the footsteps of her predecessor.

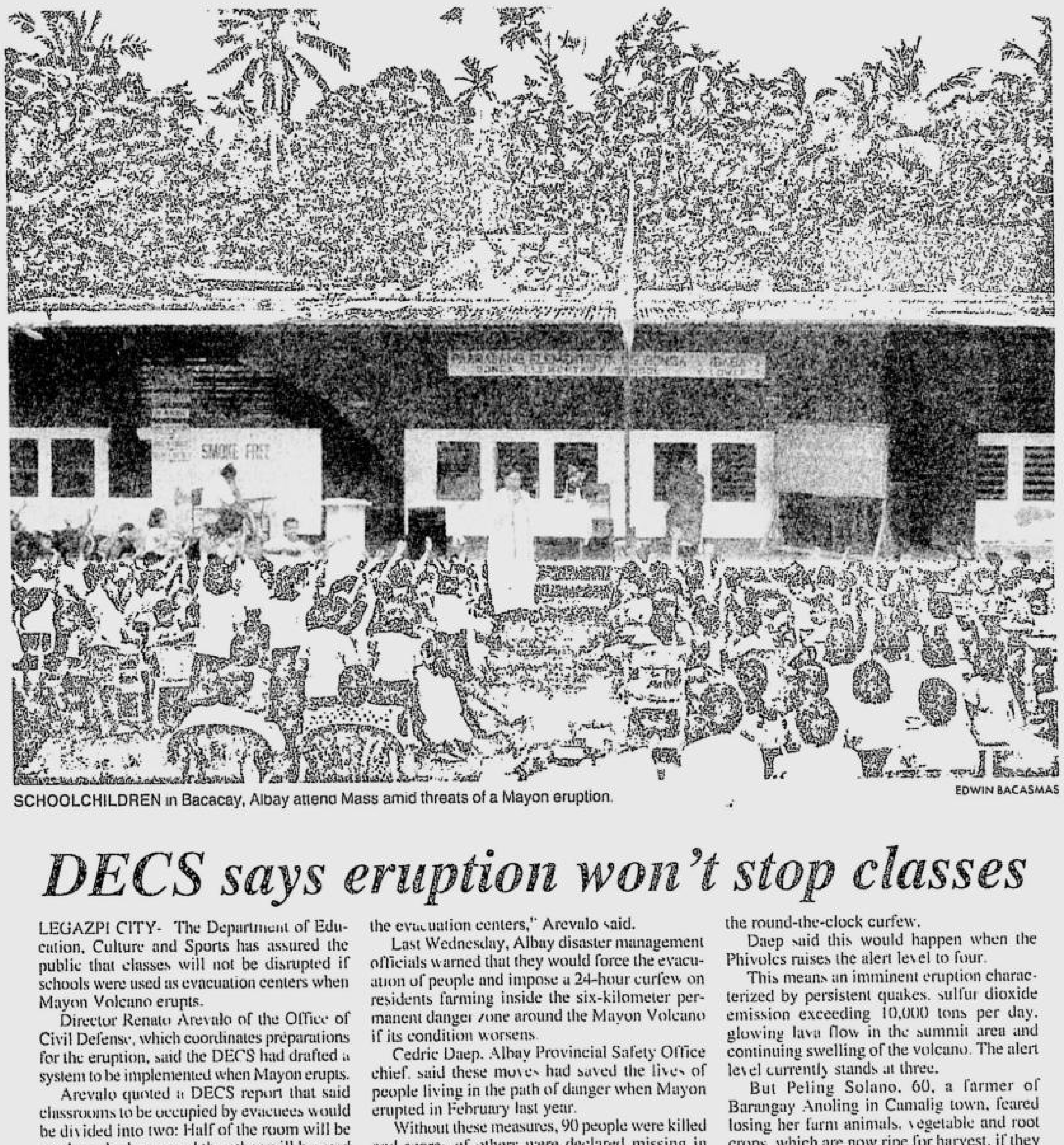
"There are already strong manifestations that the Arroyo regime is all set to become as bad as the Estrada regime or even worse," Jose Maria Sison, now acting chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front based in Utrecht, The Netherlands, said in an e-mailed statement.

Sison said "Estrada is not being arrested for plunder while the biggest cronies of deposed presidents Marcos and Estrada, like Eduardo Cojuangco and Lucio Tan, have been openly embraced by Ms Macapagal."

Sison also claimed that "shady deals are reportedly being transacted through the First Gentleman, Mike Arroyo."

"The recent photograph of Lucio Tan between Gloria and Mike Arroyo is emblematic of continuing corruption," said the communist leader, who only recently disclosed that he was still in danger of being executed by agents of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

He also took to task Ms Macapagal for allegedly surrounding herself with a military cordon sanitaire, with ex-Gen. Renato de Villa in control of the powerful Office of the Executive Secretary. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



SCHOOLCHILDREN in Bacacay, Albay attend Mass amid threats of a Mayon eruption.

EDWIN BACASMAS

DECS says eruption won't stop classes

LEGAZPI CITY- The Department of Education, Culture and Sports has assured the public that classes will not be disrupted if schools were used as evacuation centers when Mayon Volcano erupts.

Director Renato Arevalo of the Office of Civil Defense, which coordinates preparations for the eruption, said the DECS had drafted a system to be implemented when Mayon erupts.

Arevalo quoted a DECS report that said classrooms to be occupied by evacuees would be divided into two: Half of the room will be used as a bedroom and the other will be used for class sessions.

The new strategy hopes to solve the problems of classes in elementary schools disrupted by the Mayon eruption.

Most classes were held outside classrooms but the sessions were sometimes cancelled during rainy days.

"With this new system, regular classes will continue even (if) they (evacuees) are at the evacuation centers," Arevalo said.

Last Wednesday, Albay disaster management officials warned that they would force the evacuation of people and impose a 24-hour curfew on residents farming inside the six-kilometer permanent danger zone around the Mayon Volcano if its condition worsens.

Cedric Daep, Albay Provincial Safety Office chief, said these moves had saved the lives of people living in the path of danger when Mayon erupted in February last year.

Without these measures, 90 people were killed and scores of others were declared missing in the 1993 eruption, Daep said.

"About a dozen military and civilian trucks had been pre-positioned in those areas to effect a timely evacuation," Daep said.

Two battalions of soldiers from the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade and a similar contingent from the police headquarters from Camp Gen. Simeon Ola under the Joint Task Force Mayon had been assigned to enforce the evacuation and the round-the-clock curfew.

Daep said this would happen when the Phivolcs raises the alert level to four.

This means an imminent eruption characterized by persistent quakes, sulfur dioxide emission exceeding 10,000 tons per day, glowing lava flow in the summit area and continuing swelling of the volcano. The alert level currently stands at three.

But Peling Solano, 60, a farmer of Barangay Anoling in Camalig town, feared losing her farm animals, vegetable and root crops, which are now ripe for harvest, if they leave for safer grounds.

Solano said she also has yet to see signs of the volcano erupting. Among these signs are the sudden drying up of wells; the coming down of snakes from Mt. Mayon; the rise in temperature; and deep rumbling sounds that come from the bowels of the earth. *Job Belen, Roly Embile and Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

28 Cagayan towns listed as 'hot spots'

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police and election officials in Cagayan Valley have placed at least 28 towns in the region on its May 14 election watch list based on incidents of election-related violence recorded in the 1995 and 1998 elections.

Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, regional police director, said they are closely monitoring 13 towns in Cagayan, 12 in Isabela and three in Quirino.

A town in northern Cagayan was placed under strict monitoring after 11 persons were killed there in past elections.

Albano said they have scheduled a signing of a peace covenant among candidates in the region where they would be asked to voluntarily surrender their guns to the police for safekeeping during the election period.

He said the Commission on Elections would approve politicians' requests for police security.

Policemen assigned to politicians were pulled out, he added.

Albano said they have activated the regional election monitoring action center in different provinces and established mobile patrols and checkpoints as part of their drive against loose firearms, especially during the election period.

In San Fernando City, residents have been alarmed by reports of political harassment in the city and in Balaoan and Luna towns. At least one killing, believed to have been politically motivated, was reported to the police.

Supt. Samuel Diciano, La Union police director, said Peter Ragmac, a former bodyguard of an official in Balaoan, was suspected to have been summarily executed in the town on Jan. 20.

Police said Ragmac's body bore bullet wounds and his hands were smashed.

Lawyer Andrew Barcena, La Union election supervisor, confirmed the report on Ragmac's killing.

Chief Insp. Nick Pamuspusan of the provincial police office said Ragmac's family knew his assailants but have refused to identify them to the police.

Residents told policemen that while a town official was delivering a speech during Ragmac's wake, gunshots were heard outside the house, prompting people to scamper for safety.

Reports said political harassment in the province consist of "night visits" by armed followers of politicians on their rivals' supporters.

To forestall any violence, the police have established mobile police patrols in the province's 19 towns and in this city, according to Diciano.

He said 21 guns have either been confiscated or were surrendered to the police this week.

"As mandated, we are bent on neutralizing private armed groups if there are any, in the province to ensure the integrity of the electoral process," he said.

Luna, a coastal town, was placed under Comelec control in the 1995 elections.

Diciano said he would send more policemen to Balaoan.

Balaoan Mayor Joaquin Ostrea and former Mayor Casiano Ledda would face each other in the mayoral race in the town on May 14. *Estanislao Caldez and Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'DANGEROUS MAN'

Subic exec sued for slay attempt

By Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A department head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority involved in the 1991 fatal hazing of Ateneo law student Lenny Villa has been charged with beating up the niece of an ABS-CBN executive in her house here.

The victim, who requested the INQUIRER not to publish her name, said her lawyer would file charges of frustrated homicide, grave threats, malicious mischief, qualified trespassing and oral defamation against her attacker, lawyer Michael Musngi, head of the SBMA ecology department.

The charges had been filed Tuesday at the Dinalupihan prosecutors' office.

Musngi and 25 members of the Aquila Legis fraternity were sentenced to 14 years in prison for the fatal hazing of Villa in 1991. He is out on bail while their conviction is on appeal before the Court of Appeals.

He is reportedly a former boyfriend of the victim, who works in one of the private firms in the freeport.

The victim first reported the incident to the SBMA intelligence and investigation office (IIO), which advised her to also file a report with the Hermosa town police.

The incident took place at about 1:15 a.m. on Jan. 27.

In a statement taken by the SBMA IIO, the victim said she was surprised to see Musngi standing at the doorway of her bedroom.

A brief argument followed, after which Musngi, who "seemed to be in a rage, got out of my room and destroyed my cell phone (and) the remote control of my TV sets."

When the victim threatened to report Musngi to the police, she said in her statement that Musngi held her by the neck and "pulled me down to the sofa and started hitting me."

The victim's medico-legal report shows that she suffered contusions in both arms.

The alleged assailant has been described by the victim's lawyer as having "violent tendencies," pointing out that there are police and medical records showing that the Jan. 27 incident was not the first time that he allegedly attacked the victim.

"The last time was in March or April last year, before we finally parted ways," the victim said.

She said her maid told her that while she was out with her sister in the evening of Jan. 26, Musngi had been to her house several times during which he was believed to have taken the duplicate house keys.

The INQUIRER learned of the incident on Feb. 1 and tried to get Musngi's reactions.

He agreed to an interview with this reporter but upon reaching his office, a member of his staff said he had to leave because of an "emergency" but promised to return immediately. He never did.

Subsequent efforts to talk to him until late Friday afternoon proved futile, as Musngi's cell phone was always unattended and no one at the SBMA could provide information on his whereabouts and contact numbers.

The victim's lawyer, Argee Guevarra, has requested the SBMA to relocate and provide security to the victim. "(The) SBMA has a subsidiary liability in this case, since Musngi is a convict and therefore (a) dangerous man," Guevarra said.

The SBMA media relations office and a staffer of the SBMA ecology department close to Musngi said he had resigned as head of the department.

However, this reporter's request to see the resignation letter or the purported memorandum of Payumo on the resignation and the designation of an officer-in-charge to head the ecology department, was not granted.

Sayyaf demoralized, says Army

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu are demoralized as more of its members are thinking of surrendering to the government, according to the Southern Command.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr. said his assessment was based on the bandit groups' attempt to establish talks with the government and the surrender feelers that government officials received.

"Their number is dwindling, many want to surrender. Some even use their relatives to tell government that they want to give up," Camiling said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf's call for the government to stop the military operations and start negotiations is a "plain strategy" of a very demoralized group. *Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Expert looks at other side of Subic shows

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An expert on marine life said the dolphin and whale shows at the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME) could be one way of raising public consciousness on threatened marine animals.

"Many universities worldwide like those in the United States use live dolphin and marine shows as a way of drumming (up) attention to save or conserve the species," said Dr. Enrico Villoso, head of the Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) in Miagao town.

Villoso said the impact of a live marine show on people is more effective than when these shows are seen on video or TV. He said marine shows serve as living museums that can be appreciated by tourists.

"The purpose of an aquaria is to show the diversity of our ecosystem and get people to appreciate it," said Villoso, a UP Diliman graduate who specializes in the physiology and behavior of fish and a degree holder in fish taxonomy.

But Villoso admitted he had reservations on SBME's marine shows. If such were conducted only for entertainment and in the process, the marine species' wellbeing is sacrificed, he said the show would be tantamount to cruelty to animals.

"It all depends on the purpose. How do they present the organism to the public? What is the purpose? The answers to that can make a lot of difference. For study purposes, the project would be okay," said Villoso, who earned his doctorate on the reproductive physiology of fish from the University of Delaware in the United States.

Tim Desmond, SBME president and chief executive officer, earlier said the SBME is a research program with an extensive array of studies focused only on maintaining the animals there and keeping the show alive.

He added that the fusion of entertainment and education through the park would help people appreciate the need to protect the environment.

The SBME's marine shows featuring dolphins and killer whales face strong opposition from animal activists, non-government organizations and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Marine Mammal Conservation.

Among those opposing the SBME shows was Dr. Hilconida Calumpong, director of the Silliman University Marine Laboratory who said the SBME project was not about ecotourism but business.

She added that SBME's operations run counter to existing marine mammal protection policies in the country.

9 clans claim Silliman U land

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Nine families, all claiming to be heirs of the original owners of the property where part of the 40-hectare Silliman University campus now stands, are demanding payment from the university for what they believe is still their land.

The fourth, fifth and sixth generation heirs representing the Biliran, Generoso, Mapeso-Garcia, Vilan, Sayson, Pinero, Flores, Opoc and Valencia families have staged silent demonstrations along Hibbard Avenue and Silliman Avenue in the past two weeks.

The claimants all wore T-shirts printed with the words: "EXODUS. We want Justice!" They also carried placards on Jan. 26 while the university held a reenactment of the arrival of the first American Presbyterian missionaries in Negros Oriental.

Silliman is the first private university to be founded by American missionaries in the country on Aug. 28, 1901.

A claimant, who asked not to be named, said they believe that the university was holding on to dubious land titles. "Our forefathers then were illiterate and even affixed thumbmarks for their signature," the claimant said.

Silliman president Dr. Agustin Pulido said Silliman's investigation showed that the documents and titles to its property are in order.

"Coupled with Silliman's publicly recognized and acknowledged ownership and possession of its lands since time immemorial, there is no legal basis for the claims," he said.

SU legal counsel Jose Riodil Montebon took exception to the allegation by the claimant-families that the founding Presbyterian missionaries defrauded their ancestors of land.

He said they would rather face the claimants in court.

Lawyer Hansel Anito, who represents the Biliran, Generoso and Garcia-Mapeso clan, declined to be interviewed, saying he does not want to unduly subject the university to "trial by publicity."

The claimants sent demand letters to the university last year, laying claim to the land occupied by the administration building, the Hibbard Hall, archery range, Silliman Village, ballfield and Silliman Farm.

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

They danced for people power

BY VANESSA PINUNGGAN
Cebu City

"David danced before the Lord with all his might . . . leaping and whirling before the Lord." (2 Samuel 6:14-16)

DANCING is the greatest form of prayer. It involves the whole mental, spiritual and physical being of the person. It is complete abandon of inhibitions and a full offering to the Lord.

This is why the Sandiego Dance Troupe of Cebu performs every year in the Sinulog festival (dance celebration in honor of the Santo Niño). They dance in their thick Spanish costumes despite the heat of the sun.

Their manager, Valentino "Val" Sandiego, says the miracle in dancing in the Sinulog is that they do not feel the heat or even get tired after the performance.

Every Sinulog, Cebuanos look forward to the Sandiego Dance Troupe's performance. Since the group won the grand prize in the Sinulog-based dance category and awards for best in costume and choreography in 1994, it has become part of the Sinulog tradition.

Since 1994, Val, his wife Ofelia Zozobrado-Sandiego and all their young children—Angela Luz, Andrea Lauren, Andre Lorenzo and Anna Lusia—and at least 60 other dancers have started their Sinulog celebration with a nine-day novena at the Basilica del Santo Niño.

On the day of the Sinulog, as early as 1 a.m., the Sandiego home is transformed into a huge dressing room packed with dancers, seamstresses, photographers, make-up artists, etc. Together, they prepare for their greatest performance of the year for the Santo Niño.

The Sinulog dance moves two steps forward and a step backward to the beat of drums. The movement resembles the current (*sulog*) of Cebu's Pahina River, from where the term "*sinulog*" is derived.

Dance to pray

In all the years that the Sandiego Dance Troupe has performed in the Sinulog, its members have danced the same forward-backward steps with little modification. Introducing big changes will break the tradition or change the meaning of the dance. Thus, some people have questioned the entertainment value of the group's performance. The critics, of course, are those who do not understand the real meaning of the festival and are only watching to be entertained.

"If we change our steps just so the audience will be pleased, then it would defeat the purpose of preserving the tradition," Val explained. "We don't mind dancing the same steps because we do not dance to please the crowd. We dance to pray."

As the day of the grand parade neared last month, the dance troupe's excitement rose. It had practiced long and hard. Their seamstresses had placed the final touches on their costumes. Make-up artists had practiced on their models. Even the smallest problem had been ironed out to make the grand parade a perfect event.

But five days before the grand parade, the country witnessed an event much bigger than the Sinulog—People Power II. The excitement was overpowered by the nationwide uproar over an unopened enveloped, a list of ghost bank accounts, millions of pesos that were believed to have been illegally acquired, and a government gone worst.

As the Edsa Shrine became the center of People Power II, Cebuanos gathered in Fuente Osmeña to mount a rally against then President Joseph Estrada.

The Sandiego Dance Troupe performed to express their support for the people. According to Val, they were proud of themselves for participating in the historical event and for touching so many people with their God-given dancing talent.

The last of the Binukots

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
Iloilo

THERE was a haunting, disorienting note in the old woman's chant. At length, she told of the heroic exploits of the epic warrior Humadapnon and at some point, her continuous chanting began to grate on one's nerves and sleep seemed impossible—the inflections and strange words seemingly embedded in the subconscious.

The chanter was Preciosa "Lola Susa" Caballero, a *binukot* or maiden jealously hidden from the eyes of men, whose job was to preserve the oral tradition of her people, the Panay-Bukidnons.

Also called by her pagan name "Anggoran," Lola Susa died in December 1994 at the age of 74, and with her faded vestiges of the *sugidanon* or the long narratives chanted by community members in the hinterlands of Panay Island.

But all is not lost. Lola Susa's chanting can still be heard on tape at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas' Center for West Visayan Studies (CWVS) in Iloilo City, the pioneer for research on the Panay-Bukidnons.

The center mainly undertakes the preservation, study and propagation of the history and culture of the people of Western Visayas.

If he or she can bear it, a person can listen to the chanting of the epic "*Humadapnon,*" which is yet unmatched in Philippine folklore. After all, it runs from 24 to 33 hours of non-stop chanting.

The *sugidanon* tells about the heroic exploits of the ancestors of the mountain people inhabiting areas in Central Panay, like Calinog and Lambunao in Iloilo, Tapaz and Jamindan in Capiz, Valderrama in Antique, and Libacao in Aklan.

'Authentically ethic'

The *binukots* and traditions of Panay Bukidnons say so much about pre-Spanish Visayans. Had it not been for the painstaking work of Dr. Alicia Magos, an Antiqueña anthropologist residing in Iloilo, and her researchers who raced against time and modern influence, an ethnic group could have been relegated to history's dustbin.

"Though now assimilated, these people are authentically ethnic as shown in the archaic language used in chanting," said Magos, director of the CWVS, who has pioneered in the study and preservation of Panay-Bukidnon culture.

The irony of it all is that it was the French government that showed interest in the work of Magos in 1993. It approved a P50,000 grant to record the "*Humadapnon* and *Derikaryong Pada*" (Medallion Necklace).

"My researchers and I subsisted on that amount for six months to buy food, tapes and other incidentals," said Magos, who took a sabbatical for the project. She still wonders up to this day how they managed to accomplish such a daunting task with a meager budget.

The biggest reward was that out of that initial study funded by the French government, Magos found eight more epics, making a total of 10 existing epics in interior Central Panay.

Thus, for seven years, Magos and her researchers recorded and translated other epics of the legendary warriors of the Panay Bukidnons, like "*Tikum Kadlum,*" "*Amburukay,*" "*Balanakon,*" "*Sinagnayan,*" "*Kalampay,*" "*Nagbuhis,*" "*Pahagunoy*" and "*Alayaw.*"

PORTRAIT of a Binukot—a tradition that has faded.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UPV

The Bukidnon (generic name) mountain people who possess those epics are known as Hilawodnons (those residing near the headwaters of the Halawod River) and the Pan-ayanons (those near the headwaters of the Panay River).

"Sulod" or "Sulodnon" was the tentative name given by Dr. Felipe Landa Jocano, the first Filipino anthropologist who was also the mentor of Magos at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

"Sulodnon" in Hiligaynon means "people living in the interior of the mountains."

To enable her to win the trust of the Bukidnons, Magos enlisted the help of Ricardo Camarig Jr., president of the Tribal Youth Council of the Panay-Bukidnons.

Magos met her first chanting *binukot* in Lola Susa in the village of Garangan, Calinog, Iloilo, in early 1993. Lola Susa met Jocano 40 years earlier when he visited the interior village of Tapaz and recorded the epic chanted by Huğanon, Lola Susa's aunt.

Magos said Lola Susa spoke of her meeting with Jocano as if it happened only a few years ago. From memory, she chanted the 10 epics handed down to her by her aunt and grandparents.

Hardship

Not contented with her two-month stay in Garangan in 1993, Magos embarked on two one-week treks to the other interior parts of Panay or "Sulod Society" that Jocano visited in the 1950s when he was an undergraduate student.

"Tracking the rough terrain of Central Panay, my field assistants, guide, baggage carriers and I passed over paths trod only by wild boars. But these routes, supposedly shortcuts, were tough and several times, we would step on thorns or were cut by tall sharp grass," Magos recalled.

She narrated how they would fall asleep in exhaustion at the house of the village chief and resume the trek again at dawn of the following day for seven to eight hours. They climbed slippery trails on steep hills, waded through a labyrinth of streams, and dealt with insect bites, heavy rain and the cold weather.

The researchers also had to ask permission from both the communist guerillas and the military to enter the Sulod territory.

The long journey ended with the discovery of several epic chanters from the heartland of Bukidnon country.

Three more treks to Central Panay prompted Magos to send a proposal to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts for the retrieval of the eight remaining epics. Documentation followed in July 1993.

The style of rendition of the epic may be fast or slow. It can be in simple, non-repetitive lines or in two or three repetitive lines "which show the richness of the language and the artistry of the chanters."

Magos said that although memorization was involved to recall the long and many episodes, the chanters were free to recreate and add their own lines. Several parallelisms and refrains occur in the long narrative, which may be composed of several episodes and takes several days and nights of chanting.

Distinct identity

Magos and her researchers found that although the Panay-Bukidnons were now "highly acculturated," they had a cultural identity different from that of the lowlanders.

This is manifested in the richness of their other oral traditions, such as the *dilot* (love song), *tolda* (repartee), *ambahan* (extemporaneous song to welcome relatives or visitors) and *ulawhay* (chanted narrative stories).

The Panay-Bukidnons also perform the *binanog*, a beautiful courtship dance which, Magos said, has not been included in the inventory of Philippine folk dances.

The women have a distinct passion for beauty. They wear the *biningkit* (necklace), *pudong* (headdress) and *walkus* (waistband) which are made of coins dating back to the 18th century and intertwined with beads believed to be of Chinese origin.

Interestingly, the older people sport tattoos on their bodies showing animal, male and abstract designs. Filing of teeth is also a common practice among them.

"Those tattoos, aside from its implication of beauty, are also used as protection from environmental spirits," said Magos.

"*Makaburuang* (It can drive you crazy)" was how Anna Razel Limoso-Ramirez and Judith Pabito, Magos' research assistants, described the documentation of the epics.

Limoso-Ramirez would return to the house of the *binukot* every other day and request her to continue where she had left off. The researchers had to give a "love gift" in kind to the chanter and their families for the "service."

"The Sulodnons are people who want immediate return for the things that you ask them to do, considering that they have to chant for hours and neglect their work in the process," said Limoso-Ramirez, who now works with the UPV's Information and Publication Office.

Last of their kind

While documenting the epics, the researchers also observed the unique tradition of keeping a *binukot*.

This "well-kept maiden," wrote Magos in her research paper, is isolated by her parents from the rest of the household at 3 or 4 years old. She is not exposed to the sun, not allowed to work, and is even accompanied by her parents when she takes a bath. This results in a fair, frail, fine-complexioned and long-haired woman.

As she stays at home most of the time, her parents and grandparents entertain her with various oral lores. "As such, she has a rich background in the native oral literature, explaining why today's *binukots* are also very good epic chanters,' Magos said.

When a *binukot* is ready for marriage at 13 or 14, or even younger, her parents ask for a high *pangayu* (bride price) from the family of the suitor. Jealously and zealously guarded, the maiden, with her beauty and high *pangayu*, brings prestige to the family. Even when the suitor visits her, the parents do the entertaining and she is kept inside her room—but she can show the tip of a finger.

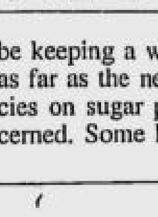
"Probing deeper into the concept of the *binukot*, the practice played an important role in our cultural history. It was the *binukot* who was trained to chant the epics, lores and other forms of oral tradition handed down from one generation to another, reflecting the life and culture of our prehistoric ancestors," wrote Magos in her paper, "The Binukot in a Changing Sociopolitical Perspective."

Today's *binukots* are the last of their kind, Magos said. When she did her research work, seven *binukots*, whose ages ranged from 70 to 100 years old, were still alive. Since then, they have passed away one after the other.

'Balimbing-ism'

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia



NOW that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is President, people in all those places in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao where she and her family had stayed in her youth and with whom she had identified herself during the election campaign are reinforcing their links to her.

Aside from Pampanga, where her father came from, and Pangasinan, the birthplace of her mother, another province that can claim her, albeit by affinity, is Negros Occidental, the home of her husband, Mike Arroyo, who is now referred to as the First Gentleman.

The Arroyos have their roots in Binalbagan town, site of some of the biggest sugar farms in the country, maybe even in Asia.

Sugar planters, however, seem to be keeping a wait-and-see attitude as far as the new President's policies on sugar production are concerned. Some have not yet gotten over their disappointment with then President Corazon Aquino, who came from the sugarland of Luzon and belonged to a family that is prominent in the sugar industry. And yet it was Cory who slammed their hopes when shortly after assuming office, she came to Bacolod and gave it to them between the eyes: "The sugar industry is finished!"

The entire industry is again waiting, with bated breath, to know who between the two industry leaders endorsed to hold the vital position of administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration will be chosen by President Macapagal.

The contenders are Rafael Golez, who has been endorsed by several sugar federations, and James Ledesma, who also has a strong group of backers.

Kibitzers are betting on Golez, who, aside from his industry credentials, is also one of the closest to the President, a connection that was there even before she was elected to the Senate.

* * *

AS in any other areas in the country, the political pot in Bacolod and Negros Occidental is heating up, and developments have become even more complicated with the breathtaking change in administration brought about by People Power II.

Suddenly, the situation turned upside down, with the ruling party now the underdog. As in the national scene, turncoatism and "*balimbing*-ism" have become the order of the day.

An interesting development is the emergence of local political groups or new parties that have registered with the Commission on Elections. The two early birds are the United Negros Alliance led by Rep. Alfredo Marañon (second district), and the Atun Tamdon Utod Negrosanon (roughly, "Let's look after our Negros siblings") led by outgoing Gov. Lito Coscolluela. Of course, "*utod*" could translate to "brother," but I'm not going to be sexist about it.

This early, however, talks involving adoptions or mergers with national parties and candidates have been going on. So much for the parochial motives, anyway. As they say, politics is addition.

The most encouraging sign is a trend toward picking candidates, not for their funds or affiliations but for their worthiness and track records.

People Power II has driven in the realization of a strong need for voters' education and, thankfully, several civic and academic organizations are seriously going into that. Well, there is hope for the Pinoy, at least in Negros and Bacolod.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LABOR COMMISSION'S REPORT
February 2001

More jobs, higher productivity—our country's urgent needs

JOB GENERATION AND *NOT* ONLY LABOR RELATIONS SHOULD BECOME DOLE'S PRINCIPAL MANDATE

Workers are our nation's most important economic resource. Yet they have *not* benefited significantly from past economic growth.

Too many Filipinos still are jobless. In October 2000 they numbered 3.4 million, out of a labor force of 33 million—which increases by 800,000 young people every year. One of every five workers who have jobs is also *under*employed.

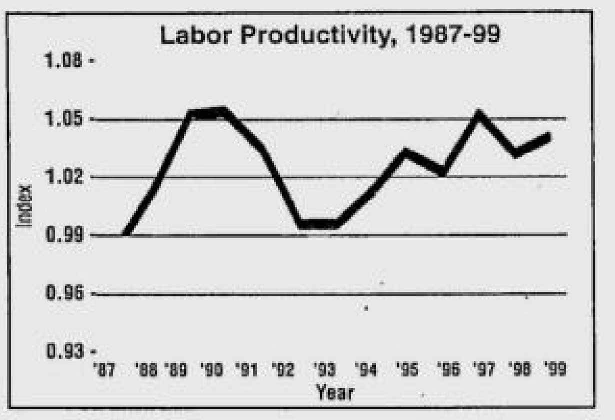
Worse, those who have steady jobs don't produce enough. For several years now, output for every worker has remained low and stagnant. This is particularly true of our agriculture.

In today's competitive world market, *low productivity means loss of competitiveness.* Between 1987 and 1999—a 12-year period—the average productivity of our workers increased by only 6%. The outcome has been a tremendous loss of competitiveness to our neighbors Malaysia and Thailand.

Yet, unless we increase the productivity of our workers, we cannot raise *real* wages and improve the living standards of their families. Right now, one in every three Filipino households subsists *below* the poverty level.

Thus, creating more jobs and raising productivity are our country's most urgent needs. And we must focus public policy on achieving these two large goals.

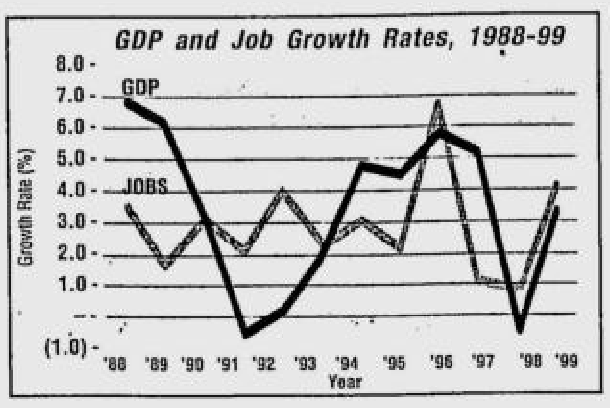
Economic policies in the large should aim to provide a stable and predictable environment for business. Public policy must turn away from protectionism and regulation toward the increasingly open economy and the free market.



In the past, protectionism had condemned our industrial sector to stagnation—because of a system of incentives that favored capital intensity and production for the home market. Openness will not only bring in the foreign capital we need so badly, because of our low savings rate. Openness will also speed up our country's technological progress, by compelling companies to innovate.

Our competitiveness in the world market will depend on how well we improve the quality of our *human* capital. We Filipinos take pride in our pool of professional, technical and other knowledge workers. But they make up only about 6% of all our workers—and the percentage has *not* risen since 1980.

Keeping up the growth of jobs—and of productivity—requires coordinating our industrial, macroeconomic and labor-market policies. All of these policies must be reexamined in the light of their capability to create jobs and raise productivity.



We must reexamine not just our labor policies. We must also rethink our public policies on basic education, agriculture, population, finance, credit, and so forth.

The Department of Labor and Employment itself must be reconfigured—so that not *only labor relations* but *job-generation becomes its principal mandate.*

The major reforms both the legislature and the executive must carry out to improve the quality of our country's human capital are spelled out in this Report of the Congressional Commission on Labor, which is being submitted to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the leadership of Congress today.

ORIENTING THE ECONOMY TO THE MARKET

To raise workers' skills and enhance their productivity, we must begin at the beginning—by expanding and equalizing young people's access to education and training. Government must make good on its commitment to make basic education available to every Filipino. And it must encourage businesses to offer on-the-job training, as the most cost-effective type of skills-training.

Job opportunities can be multiplied by economic policy that encourages the entry of foreign trade, foreign investment, and foreign technology. Only a market economy will stimulate the competition, innovation and technological change that generates economic growth, workers' productivity and broad-based prosperity. Growth by itself generates jobs. Over these last ten years, employment (92.6%) was at its highest in 1996, when economic growth was also at its best (6.8%).

But safety nets must also be spread, to ease the uncertainty generated among workers by the cycle of job destruction and creation that global competition stimulates. We must strengthen our social security system and our health and medical insurance programs.

PROTECTIONISM WILL BE SELF-DEFEATING

Public policy must ensure that capital accumulation expands at a sufficiently rapid rate in industry and the service sector—enough to employ surplus agricultural workers gainfully in high-productivity jobs. Protectionist policies on foreign trade that favor heavy basic industries will be self-defeating, because they penalize the downstream industries—many of them small and medium enterprises—which must pay higher-than-world prices for their production inputs.

Even resource-based manufacturers are best served by liberal policies that enable them to source the least-cost commodities, both here and abroad. Our food exporters will not be able to expand their markets abroad for as long as they must pay high prices for their inputs such as sugar.

INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL

Over the 20 years 1979-98, Government has made much progress in raising the education level of our workers. The proportion of young Filipinos who completed at least high school rose from about 10% to about 44%. Unfortunately these improvements have not been translated into significant gains in aggregate labor productivity. Agricultural workers—who still make up nearly 40% of all the employed—are the least educated and the least productive.

Government spending for education as a percentage of GNP was only 3.4% in 1997, compared with 4.8% for Thailand and 4.9% for Malaysia. As a result, low-quality public schools coexist with high-quality private schools. And the children of relatively poor families are disadvantaged from the very beginning.

To finance quality basic education adequately, the State should reduce its burden of subsidizing students in State-run colleges and universities. In higher education, as well as in vocational and technical training, government should concentrate on setting up centers of excellence whose influence can spill over into the general culture.

Lifelong education—the training and retraining of workers called for by globalization—is best provided privately, encouraged by government policies that expand and equalize opportunities for education and training.

WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Measures intended to protect workers tend to raise employers' costs, while employers' actions to raise workplace productivity may threaten workers' job security. Public policy must reduce this tension so that our country can seize the growth opportunities in an increasingly integrated global economy.

In the new economy, the company must be able freely to shift its workers to their most productive use. Allowing various forms of work arrangements to flourish promotes labor mobility. But increasing the flexibility of the labor market must never prejudice worker protection against joblessness or income losses.

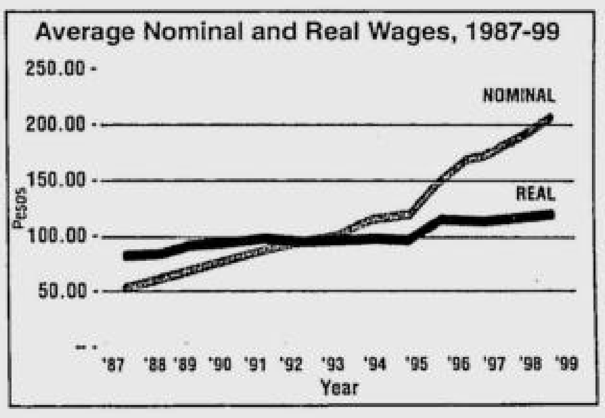
Decriminalizing "unfair labor practices" should improve the climate for the employment relationship.

Unionism can be strengthened by developing industry-wide groupings and by encouraging leadership from within: by ensuring union officers are employees of the company concerned.

Collective bargaining and wage increases are ideally linked with company performance and productivity.

Voluntary arbitration will be encouraged if the grievance machinery is institutionalized in every enterprise, unionized or not.

Labor justice in our country fares poorly in terms of fairness, speed and economy. To compensate for this, the authority of voluntary arbitrators should be enlarged. Conciliation should be the first stage in the settlement of disputes; and the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Labor should be limited to disputes involving the national interest.



SOME POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS

1. *To raise the quality of our human capital,* the State must make larger and more focused investments in basic education. This point was made ten years ago by the Congressional Commission on Education. But this time we propose that the State *subsidize* the education of the children of the very poor—using part of the internal revenue allotment of cities and municipalities. Real property taxes should also be raised, to generate funds for this purpose.

2. *Job opportunities in the rural sector* can be created if government funds fully the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act, which has already increased both farm output and the income of farmers and rural workers.

3. *Population planning* is vital. Government must make a hard-headed review of our policies to moderate population. More effective measures must be put in place and carried out efficiently.

4. *Credit policies must be changed,* to encourage small, medium and even microenterprises. We do *not* recommend subsidized interest rates. But we do propose that credit policy must make a more realistic assessment of risks, so that credit can be made more accessible to small entrepreneurs.

5. *Workplace rules* and work time must be reviewed, so that company production adjusts to the requirements of global trade and competition. Flexible labor arrangements will enable companies to organize the work process quickly, in response to market changes.

6. *Workplace disputes* should be settled with minimum reliance on legal processes that are unavoidably protracted. Voluntary arbitration should be promoted and enforced, particularly in the industrial sector.

7. *Rules on strikes* should be changed—to preserve the power of this ultimate weapon of workers. But strikes for reasons other than those prescribed by law must not be allowed.

8. *The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) must be reorganized*—so that job generation becomes its primary function. Labor standards must be balanced with economic priorities and the overriding need to create more jobs. Labor relations should be lodged in an office that combines voluntary mediation and compulsory arbitration of worker-employer disputes. The process of settling disputes should be clearly defined.

To strengthen DOLE's capabilities, TESDA, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority that manages technical education and training, should be placed under the Labor Secretary's supervision.

9. *Overseas Filipino workers*—State policy should not distinguish between national and overseas employment.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration should become responsible for collecting information on foreign labor markets and for reintegrating OFWs into the domestic labor market.

10. *Labor unions remain indispensable*: they must be nurtured and multiplied by public policy. The rules on their formation and recognition must be simplified. Other forms of workers' organizations should also be recognized as collective bargaining units.

The State must also spread its protective mantle—including social insurance—over workers in the informal and rural sectors.

Lastly, new forms of cooperation—through social dialogue—must be instituted between workers and employers, which take into account the needs of both these partners in production.

THE TASKS AHEAD

For Congress, the key reforms are, among others:

—Amending the Labor Code in the light of the recommendations of this Congressional Commission on Labor;

—Passing the bills on productivity and apprenticeship;

—Setting up a Congressional Oversight Committee on Labor.

For the executive branch, the urgent task is to reconfigure the Department of Labor and Employment—to enable it to deal effectively with the problems and the opportunities globalization presents to Filipino workers.

For workers' and employers' groups, this Commission urges:

—agreements based on formal and structured dialogue;

—cooperation to enhance productivity;

—interaction, at the level of the enterprise, between trade union and management to promote industrial harmony. ■

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
The Congressional Commission on Labor

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Lina clears Mendoza over Agarao protest

(From page A1)

mitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said he now considered the case closed.

"What is the reason for us to replace (Mendoza)?" De Villa told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Mendoza said he was "humbled" by Lina's announcement regarding the outcome of the DILG's fact-finding investigation.

He said he welcomed it as a chance to prove himself worthy of the President's trust and confidence.

But Agarao, president of the Crusade Against Violence (CAV), expressed disappointment over Malacañang's "premature clearance" of Mendoza.

"The move" is "grossly unfair to the interest of the people," she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"How can they do that in the morning just after the President promised us that she would order Secretary Lina to look deeper into our allegations?" she said.

Mendoza's clearance has triggered a massive revamp of the PNP hierarchy.

At about the same time Lina cleared Mendoza, the Commission on Elections approved the appointment of 22 star-rank police officers to sensitive posts.

The revamp was forwarded about two weeks ago to the Comelec but was held in abeyance when the anti-crime leaders questioned Mendoza's appointment.

Under a Comelec resolution, the transfer of PNP personnel is prohibited during an election period.

'Transparent'

De Villa said Lina's men had conducted a "transparent" investigation and had "done their jobs the best they could."

"The government cannot go on investigating and investigating, digging and digging," he said, adding:

"At some point, we'll have to say this is it. We don't have the luxury of time to pause. We cannot stop here just because some people want Mendoza out."

De Villa said the eight-point complaint of Ang-See and Agarao was "jeopardizing" Mendoza's efforts to fight crime.

He said the two women "have not presented any evidence, any document, showing that Mendoza did this or that."

"In the end, (Lina) said there is no basis for him to find any criminal or administrative complaint against Mendoza," De Villa said.

Interviewed after his oath-taking at the Palace yesterday afternoon, Lina said there was still no finality in the matter of whether Mendoza would stay at his post.

"Mendoza is an appointee of the President," Lina pointed out. "I will discuss this with the President. It's really (her) decision."

Asked whether he would recommend Mendoza's continued stay as PNP chief, Lina said: "Maybe he will have to prove something in the next two months or three months. We will see."

Lina denied that the DILG finding was influenced by De Villa, who reportedly recommended Mendoza as PNP chief.

"I am an independent person. I will submit a report based on something that I am convinced has a basis, not because (an appointee) is backed by anyone," Lina said.

The interior secretary said the DILG "went behind the newspaper clipping" that Ang-See and Agarao had initially submitted.

He said the investigators also talked with the people concerned, but that they turned up to be third-person witnesses without personal knowledge of the charges.

Lina also said he would look into the new charges submitted by Ang-See and Agarao. "But again, if these cannot be substantiated . . . these cannot stand in any legal proceeding," he said.

Private

Agarao said she met privately with the President after obtaining documents that could prove some of the accusations they had leveled at Mendoza.

She said the documents came from another government agency that had been conducting its own investigation on Mendoza.

She quoted her sources as saying that they had sent the documents to Malacañang, but that the President reportedly had yet to get hold of these.

"I was surprised when the President said she had not received the documents and even asked me to bring these to her. So I hurriedly went to meet her, and she promised to have (the matter) investigated," Agarao said.

She said somebody close to people in Malacañang were apparently pulling strings to have Mendoza stay at his post.

Agarao also criticized the investigation conducted by the DILG.

She said that even before Lina gave his report to the President, he had commented in some interviews that the documents she and Ang-See submitted were *malabo* (questionable) as these were mostly made up of news clippings.

"But how can you say it was nothing when the news reports were based on interviews with people who had transacted with Mendoza or had knowledge of his involvement in some of the scams?" Agarao said.

Besides, she said, the DILG investigating team should have tried to gather its own evidence based on the accusations against Mendoza.

"What was so incriminating about what we gave the President that they would hurriedly clear Mendoza even before they could look into the documents?" she said.

Reassigned

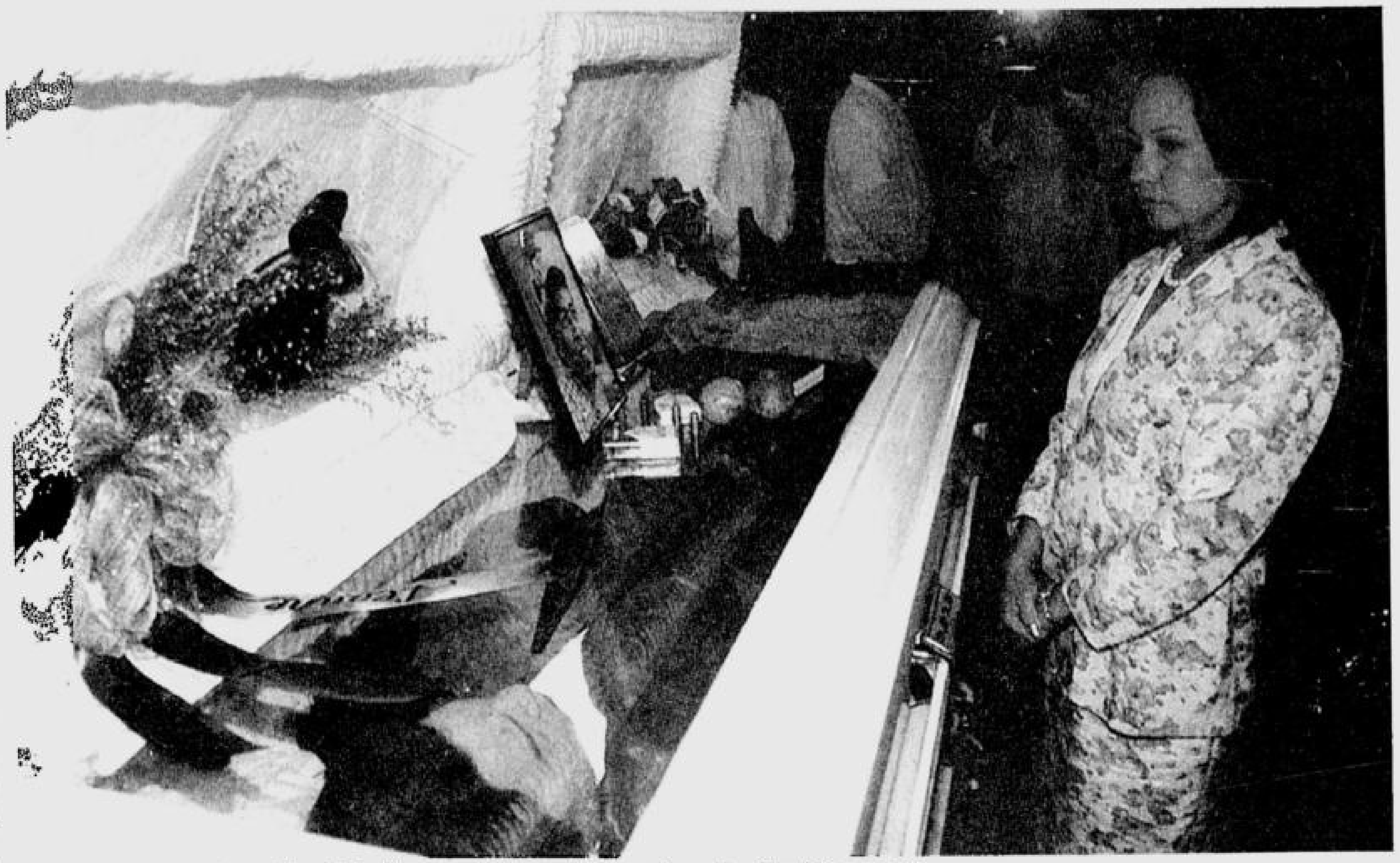
Among the PNP officers assigned to headquarters in Camp Crame was Director Hermonegenes Ebdane, the new deputy chief for administration replacing Deputy Director General Reynaldo Wycoco, who was earlier named as head of the National Bureau of Investigation.

The others:

- Director Edgar Galvante, deputy chief for operation replacing Deputy Director General Jewel Canson, who resigned his post following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.
- Director Rex Piad, chief of the directorial staff replacing Deputy Director General Romeo Peña, who was named the new Metro Manila police director.

Chief Supt. Efren Fernandez was named director for personnel and records management; Director Cecilio Penilla, director for logistics; Director Reynaldo Velasco, director for comptrollership.

Those assigned to the units under Malacañang's direct supervision were Chief Superintendents Clyde Fernandez, the new head of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, and Ramsey Ocampo, head of the Philippine Public Safety College; and Director Miguel Coronel, head of the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center.



LAST respects are due a fallen Edsa II comrade, Popoy Lagman, from President Macapagal.

3 of Popoy's attackers known

(From page A1)

ary Proletarian Party-Alex Boncayao Brigade, the urban hit squad which Lagman used to command.

In a hastily called press conference, Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and outgoing Metro Manila police director Edgar Aglipay, over-all commander of "Task Force Popoy," both refused to name the suspects or their group because of an ongoing police operation.

"We have already established the identities of the three of the four suspects through a scientific investigation we have conducted and from information provided by several witnesses," Aglipay said.

The suspects, he said without elaborating, belong to a "well-organized group."

PNP crime laboratory ballistics experts found that several slugs, fired from a .45 cal. pistol and recovered from the site where Lagman was shot Tuesday, appear to have been fired from the same gun used by the murderers of the businessman in 1999.

Four unidentified gunmen shot Popoy Lagman four times in the head shortly after he got out of his car in front of the UP's Bahay Alumni on Tuesday afternoon.

Police investigators are zeroing in on one of four "well-organized groups" as the brains behind the assassination.

Deadline

Aglipay did not say when the task force expected to solve Lagman's murder, although he claimed that the team was working around the clock. "I would like to assure the public that we will not rest or stop until we have finished and solved the case," Aglipay said.

He added that former Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, Popoy's older brother, had been informed about the latest police findings and "was happy about the latest progress in his brother's case."

But militant groups yesterday gave the police-led task force until Monday to produce suspects in the case before taking the investigation into their own hands.

Fortaleza said Lagman's comrades were prepared to launch their own "parallel" investigation if Task Force Popoy failed to apprehend any suspects

CPP denial

The head of the National Bureau of Investigation said its own initial investigation pointed to communist groups as the culprits, even as the spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines denied the party's involvement.

In an interview during his oath-taking at the Palace, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco raised the ideological rift between Lagman and CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison.

"As of now, the strongest angle would be the rift between Joma and Ka Popoy. As of now, that is the most probable angle based on our assessment," Wycoco said, though he added that investigators had not ruled out the possible involvement of rightist groups.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said "there (was) no urgent nor grave reason for the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army to dispatch an armed unit against Popoy Lagman."

In an e-mailed statement in response to a query from the INQUIRER on the killing, Rosal said "the revolutionary armed forces have incomparably bigger and more pressing priorities and concerns."

'One and the same'

In another interview, Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the investigation was producing results, but declined to give details. He would only say that "there will be something positive in the next two to three days."

The INQUIRER reported Friday that Task Force Popoy had identified two suspects as "inactive" members of the New People's Army.

Rosal said that whoever assassinated Lagman, "besides being his fierce enemy, definitely carries a different agenda and set of priorities."

He said that the killers only wanted "to sow bloody intrigue and disorder in the post-Estrada situation."

He also claimed that the group behind the killing of Lagman as well as those who are purportedly planning to assassinate Sison in the Netherlands, "are one and the same."

Before Lagman's murder, Sison claimed that he (Sison) was the target of an assassination plot cooked up by military and police authorities conspiring with former communist rebels.

Palace confident

Rosal said that the CPP's main suspect in Lagman's killing is a "militarist group" that may or may not be in cahoots with the camp of former President Joseph Estrada.

The CPP spokesperson warned the Macapagal administration that it must act swiftly and decisively amid destabilization moves.

"It must expeditiously solve big crimes such as the Dec. 30 bombings, the (Bubby) Dacer abduction, the attempt and continuing conspiracy against the life of Comrade Jose Ma. Sison, the murder of Popoy Lagman, and, most of all, the corruption and other heinous crimes of Estrada and his cronies," he said.

"If not, it would not be farfetched for the Macapagal government to suffer a fate similar to or worse than that of the ousted Estrada regime," he warned.

But Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said that those who might have intended to destabilize the government through Lagman's murder were not likely to achieve their objective.

"It is a major crime to be certain. An important crime that needs to be solved, but one crime cannot dislocate this government," De Villa said in a phone interview.

Earlier, investigators said that Lagman's killing was part of destabilization efforts to undermine Ms Macapagal's leadership and also to discredit all law enforcement agencies, specifically the new police leadership.

Work stoppage

On Monday, when Lagman's remains will be buried at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina, the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, which he headed, will stage a work stoppage to protest the killing. The group will also launch the Partido ng Manggagawa, which Lagman helped organize.

Victor Briz, BMP president, said some 200 unions are expected to join the work stoppage. An estimated 50,000 workers are also expected to join the funeral march from the Church of the Risen Lord in UP.

Briz said the central committee of the BMP would hold an emergency meeting today to prepare to elect Lagman's successor as BMP chair. Lagman held the position since he founded the BMP in 1995 until his death.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno, considered a "rival" labor organization of the BMP, said the death of Lagman "closes a chapter in the turbulent history of the Philippine labor movement."

Elmer Labog, KMU secretary general, said a "massive power struggle" within the ranks of the BMP would follow Lagman's demise.

"Lagman was their ideological head, tactician and their finance manager all in one," Labog said. "He was something of a god to them, whose temperamental will and every whim was obeyed." *With a report from Gerald Lacuarta*

'Money for AFP, none for gov't men'

(From page A1)

about a military coup are affecting her."

Osmeña said an increase in government salaries could be included in the supplemental budget that Malacañang was asking from Congress.

He said he disagreed with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin's assertion that the government could not grant pay increases this year.

Boncodin had welcomed the deferment of the passage of the P725-billion national budget for the year 2001 because this would put on hold the mandatory 5-percent increase in government salaries.

Supplemental budget

Although the government could include the salary increase in the supplementary budget, this was unlikely because a number of agencies were expected to lobby for additional funding, according to Boncodin.

But Osmeña said it would be unfair to deprive government workers a pay increase because of the high prices of basic goods and services.

"(When) the proposal for the supplementary budget comes in, we will include in the supplemental budget a 5-percent increase for the salaries of government employees," he said. "I would like to assure that."

If government submits the supplemental budget in April, Osmeña said he was willing to conduct hearings during the congressional break.

He estimated that the supplemental budget would amount to P52 billion.

Boncodin had said that Malacañang would ask the new Congress for a P20-billion supplemental budget to cover additional financial requirements. The government is operating on last year's budget of P649 billion due to the delay in the passage of the budget for 2001.

Osmeña said the Senate finance committee's budget allocation for 2001 was P701 billion, or P52 billion higher than the previous year's budget.

The Senate budget allocation covered the increases in the salaries of government employees, the internal revenue allocation of local government units and debt service payments.

Promise

Malacañang's plan to freeze salaries and cut the number of government employees also drew protest from the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement for Government and Employees (Courage).

Courage said that Ms Macapagal had promised before she became the Chief Executive that she would grant wage increases.

"If the DBM will have its way, then it goes to show that she (Ms Macapagal) is inconsistent. She is no different from her predecessors and she is in fact merely continuing the anti-worker policies of the Ramos, Aquino and the Estrada administrations," Elizabeth Nuyab, Courage secretary general, said.

Nuyab warned Courage would stage mass actions nationwide if Ms Macapagal reneged on her promise.

Courage rejected DBM's argument that government must freeze salary increases and cut the number of government workers as part of cost-cutting measures to keep the budget deficit under P145 billion.

To enable the government to grant the pay increase, Courage wants debt payments and the budget for the AFP modernization reduced.

The AFP modernization can wait, as there is no imminent threat of foreign aggression, according to Nuyab.

Courage president Ferdinand Gaite also expressed dismay that the government would freeze the wages of its workers when it would spend billions of pesos for the modernization of the military.

"This is not just acceptable to the more than one million government workers nationwide," Gaite said.

Courage is demanding a P3,500 a month across-the-board increase for all government employees. If it adopts the Courage proposal, the government must raise P54 billion to pay 1.3 million government employees.

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president, proposed the forfeiture of the assets of Estrada and Marcos.

"President Arroyo should go after the billions of plundered and laundered money by past administrations to fill the financial vacuum in her government," he said.

He said "government workers are again offered as pawns and sacrificial lambs in exchange for fresh loans from foreign creditors."

Ocampo said the International Monetary Fund and World Bank were apparently behind the DBM proposal.

He also reminded Ms Macapagal of her promise to raise the wages of Filipino workers and scrap anti-labor policies like mass layoff, retrenchment, contractualization and re-engineering in state agencies. *With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Gloria, FVR want Noli, but allies don't

(From page A1)

candidates in its senatorial ticket.

"We have 17 names for the 13, so that is our medium list. The President wants to study it with a smaller group," said Sen. Juan Flavier.

Ms Macapagal met Thursday night with representatives of the PPC members—her party Lakas, Lito Osmeña's Promdi, Sen. Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa's Reporma, the Liberal Party, and Jose "Peping" Cojuangco's Kampi—to finalize the senatorial slate.

But the meeting, held behind closed doors at the residence of Ms Macapagal's parents in Forbes Park, failed to produce a consensus.

"It's not good to finalize the slate and have people lose face. You need to break it gently to them because this is a campaign. No (one's feelings) should (be) ruffled," Roco said in explaining the failure to arrive at a complete slate during the meeting.

The Lakas source said the May 14 elections would serve as a referendum on the Macapagal administration, which came to power through People Power II.

Others present at the meeting said that "very derogatory remarks" were aired against De Castro, and that his chances of being included in the PPC ticket were slim.

Among the supposed remarks was that De Castro was "not part of Edsa II."

Emerging from the meeting, Sen. Franklin Drilon was asked if De Castro was included in the slate.

"I don't recall," said Drilon, who is leading the ticket.

Principles

Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez said in a phone interview yesterday that the selection committee had utilized two "principles"—"the equity of the incumbent and the equity of the impeachment"—in its choices.

He said De Castro would not be included in the ticket.

"I think he's out as of (Thursday) night. That was the consensus, unless there were changes," Alvarez said.

Flavier—consistently No. 1 in the surveys—said there were "questions" on the proposed inclusion of De Castro and Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

Sergio is one of the 10 senator-judges at Estrada's impeachment trial who voted for the opening of the second envelope containing vital evidence against the ousted President.

Sen. John Osmeña, member of the Nationalist People's Coalition that has dropped Estrada and now supports Ms Macapagal, urged her not to include his brother Lito Osmeña in the PPC slate.

The senator said Lito was not fit to become senator and only intended to sabotage the reelection bid of their cousin Sergio.

John said he would campaign hard for Sergio.

"If you go by his record in the Senate, (you will see that) he works until midnight during the hearings of the agriculture committee. He is so hardworking. So it is very unfair, and I appeal to the administration party not to do that to Serge because he is with them," John said.

John also said Lito had a personal rift with Sergio and would probably use the senatorial election to get even.

"They should not allow themselves to be used by Lito. Besides, what has Lito done for Edsa II? He was apparently not even there until it was over," John said.

Objections

Alvarez said he was on top of the short list of candidates for environment secretary. If he is named to the post, he said, he would have to give up his slot in the PPC ticket.

He said his slot would have to be given to another Lakas nominee.

Alvarez also said lawyer Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan "is in, although there were some objections."

"They were saying that he was too young and a cinema idol, and they said, 'Here we go again.' But I stood by him," Alvarez said.

Alvarez admitted that Pangilinan was the subject of criticisms involving his age as well as allegations that he was "pro-Estrada" during the impeachment trial.

Pangilinan yesterday denied having taken such a stance. He also said he was never a part of the senatorial ticket of the Estrada coalition Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, although there were media reports to that effect.

"As a matter of fact, as a convenor of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II, I actively co-organized a multisectoral initiative that spearheaded the Resign-Impeach-Oust movement," he said in a statement.

Pangilinan said civil society, represented by Kompil II, was batting for four candidates—himself, Solita Monsod, Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada and former Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato.

He said the President would meet with civil society representatives tomorrow.

Drilon said Ms Macapagal would announce the slate at another meeting Sunday evening, just in time for the deadline of the filing of the certificates of candidacy on Monday.

Possibilities

Tañada told reporters yesterday that he had received information that he and Pangilinan, both LP nominees, were in the senatorial ticket.

He said the others were Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto of Reporma, Monsod and Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo of Aksyon Demokratiko, former Speaker Manuel Villar of the "conscience caucus," and Drilon.

The Lakas slots, according to Tañada, will go to Alvarez, Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol, Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera, Sen. Juan Flavier and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

He said the remaining slots had yet to be filled up.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said the 17 names on the PPC list were picked out from the results of two surveys commissioned by the coalition.

He said a Social Weather Stations survey conducted Jan. 27 among 6,000 respondents showed nine coalition candidates in the Magic 12.

The other three are candidates of opposition parties.

Cayetano said another survey, Social Pulse, which was conducted by a group from the University of the Philippines on Jan. 31, showed seven coalition candidates possibly making it in the elections.

Sources said among those who ranked high in the surveys were Flavier, Drilon, Magsaysay, Arroyo, Pangilinan, Villar, Recto, Herrera, and former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay Jr.

"The top six in the surveys are probably in, but the next seven are being studied because 'winnability' is one thing, but integrity, gender and sectoral representation are other factors to consider," said Lakas Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

LDP

No one seems keen to lead the election campaign for the senatorial candidates of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said he had turned down the job of LDP campaign manager, which party president Edgardo Angara had assigned to him and Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

Biazon told a news conference that his "international obligations" as president of the Asian Regional Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat would make it impossible for him to perform the task.

He said he would be away for two weeks starting today to attend two conferences in Nairobi, Kenya. He will also have to go to New York to consult with the United Nations Center for Human Settlements in preparation for the June 6-12 UN Special General Assembly on Habitat.

But even as Biazon made the announcement, his party mate Sen. Blas Ople expressed preference for Sotto. Ople said Sotto was "more committed" to the party than Biazon, who, he said, tended to be "reconciliatory" to the new administration.

Biazon was among the senators who called for Estrada's resignation.

Estrada's party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, and the LDP are partners in the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino coalition.

Biazon bolted the coalition last November, at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal.

Also yesterday, Biazon said he was against the LDP's alliance with the PMP for the senatorial election.

He said he would oppose the inclusion of any PMP member in the lineup. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

'Marginalized' sector getting too crowded

(From page A1)

lines on which groups should be recognized, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said yesterday.

And if the Comelec continues to ignore the need to issue guidelines, an additional 143 organizations will be accredited as party-list groups, raising the number to 266, Rosales warned.

The problem, she said, was that many of the groups trying to get accreditation are "not marginalized." Under the Constitution, 20 percent of the membership of the House of Representatives should be reserved for marginalized and underrepresented sectors.

But "some of these groups represent the wealthy, (while others) kowtow to political groups like the True Marcos Loyalists," Rosales said.

For instance, she said, she had heard talk that Maceda, a former Senate President, was planning to run under the Nationalist People's Coalition.

"How in heaven's name can he represent the underrepresented and the marginalized?" Rosales asked in exasperation.

The organizations include 25 business groups, eight security agencies, three military related organizations, five big professional organizations, 17 quasi-government groups, and 11 more that Akbayan said did not fit the criteria of party-list groups.

Among those included in the list are the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., the Guardians Center Foundation under Col. Billy Bibit, the Philippine Medical Association, the United Architects of the Philippines, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba), and the Philippine Dental Association.

MAD

Rosales also noted reports that actor Richard Gomez was planning to run under the banner of the Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga or MAD.

The inclusion of non-marginalized groups into the party list would run against the spirit of the Constitution that gave birth to the party-list law, according to Rosales.

She said that the Constitution enumerated the sectors that should fill the seats allocated for party-list representatives.

The Charter lists the sectors as the "labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector."

Under RA 7941, the definition was expanded to include the elderly, the handicapped, fisherfolk, veterans, overseas workers and professionals.

"The claims of the applicants should be scrutinized and measured against actual representation of the marginal and underrepresented," said Akbayan in a position paper.

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BALINGIT SIZZLES

Tanduay clips SLR; Gin wins

GAME TODAY *(Lipa City)*
5 p.m. – Shell vs Purefoods

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BONEL Balingit erased the common notion that he's over the hill, scoring seven points in the fourth quarter to lead Tanduay Gold to a 76-62 win over Sta. Lucia Realty in the PBA All-Filipino Cup last night at the Philsports.

In leading the Rhummasters to their first victory in three games in the PBA All-Filipino Cup, the 6-foot-9 Balingit endured the derision of fans as he got blocked, dropped the ball, missed at point blank range in agonizing succession.

"He (Balingit) still got some pride in him," said Tanduay coach Derrick Pumaren. "I know that he can come back and redeem himself so I gave him the playing time he needed."

That paid off in the fourth quarter when Balingit suddenly showed enough muscle to thwart the Realtors down the shaded lane and limit them to just eight points in the period.

While taking precious offensive rebounds, he also connected underneath that went perfectly with the outside operations done by Jeffrey Cariaso, Dondon Hontiveros and Bong Hawkins.

"We had a very good practice last week and I think we are getting in shape," said Pumaren. "We hustled throughout and played for full four quarters."

That proved to be the Realtors' downfall, failing to sustain their otherwise intense game until the payoff period en route to their third straight defeat.

Dennis Espino scored 20 points for Sta. Lucia but the only person who helped him was lowly regarded Jercules Tangkay, who was reportedly getting P60,000 salary a month.

Tangkay, a third-round pick, has been earning his keep with an average of 12.5 points per game, while resident millionaire Marlou Aquino could only score six points last night.

It was a low-scoring game with neither teams taking more than a three-point lead and even forging a tie at the end of the third quarter.

Barangay Ginebra outsteadied Alaska Milk down the stretch to prevail, 63-55, in the second game. The Gin kings posted their second straight win for a 2-1 card, while handing the Aces' their second loss in three games.

First game

TANDUAY 76—Cariaso 25, Hontiveros 21, Hawkins 12, Balingit 9, Locsin 4, Santos 2, Webb 2, Arboleda 1, Agapito 0, Realubit 0.

STA. LUCIA 62—Espino 20, Tangkay 12, Belano 7, Aquino 6, Orquillas 5, Mendoza 4, Adriano 4, Francisco 2, Ortiguerra 2, Tan 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 14-15, 36-35, 54-54, 76-62.

Xavier posts 6th victory

XAVIER School's rampaging Stallions crushed St. Stephen's High, 81-46, Thursday for their sixth straight victory in the six-team, two-round Tiong Lian basketball tournament at the CKS gym in Tondo.

Using a crippling trapping defense from start to finish, coach Mon Amador's Stallions raced to a 40-23 halftime lead en route to one of the most lopsided triumphs in the tourney.

Sammy Young and acrobatic Joseph Yeo led Xavier's balanced offensive with 15 points each.

Chua retains Southern Ladies Open crown

HEIDI Chua retained her crown in the Southern Ladies Golf Open yesterday as she humbled the seven members of the national training pool at the Bacolod Golf & Country Club in Bacolod City.

The 24-year-old Chua coasted to a 3-over-par 73 worth 51 points to beat Carmelette Villaroman by 2 in the Molave system of scoring that gives 4 points to a birdie, 3 to a par and 2 to a bogey.

Ahead by 2 over Villaroman at the start of the final round, Chua increased her lead to 5 after 13 holes before cruising to that 2-point victory to score a rare back-to-back triumph in the 38th season of the nation's oldest golfest for women.

Villaroman, the first-round leader from Canlubang over Chua by a measly point before surrendering the lead to Chua on Thursday, could only match the champion's 51 points to settle for runnerup honors.

"My putting deserted me at the most crucial times of today's battle," said Villaroman, whose 3-foot miss for birdie on 11 and a 3-putt, bogey-producing miscue on 12 prevented her from chopping to 2 Chua's 4-point margin at the turn. "But I give credit to her. Heidi played consistent golf today."

Villaroman, just about the only one from the 7-women pool who was gallant enough to engage Chua in a neck and neck fight, birdied the par-5 14th following a bogey on 13 to stay 4 down with 4 holes to go.

She parred 16 against Chua's bogey to move to within 3 points with 2 holes to play.

But after routine pars for both on 17, Chua merely went through the motions on 18, which she bogeyed when her tee shot on the 144-yard, par-3 spun back into the fringe.

Chua two-putted for bogey after a pitch while Villaroman made par for the final 2-point winning margin for Wack Wack's top gun in the NGAP-organized series sponsored by DHL, the Philippine Sports Commission, PAL, Hidden Spring, DPC, the city government of Bacolod and Master Sports, among others.

"I'm so happy with my victory because I really prepared hard for this," said Chua. "This is definitely sweeter than the one I won last year."

Chua, a marketing graduate from De La Salle, stunned the field last year when she sneaked in from nowhere to capture the crown at Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro City.

Lina de Guzman, also of Canlubang, placed third at 47=150 in the championship division followed by Loralie Roberto of Riviera at 4th with 49=146, Lucy Landicho of Canlubang with 46=140, Anya Tanpinco of Bacolod with 46=137, Tracy Locsin of Canlubang with 47=137, Aileen Chua of Canlubang with 49=137, Carina Ricamonte of Sta. Elena with 42=135, Ruby Chico of Canlubang with 46=127, Shella Dollosa of Bacolod with 39=122 and Marjorie Lopingco of Riviera with 38=106.

Betsy Tuason topped the seniors division, beating fellow Wack Wacker Aloma Lopez, 91-84. Ofie Servando of Negros was third, Jo Veloso of Cebu fourth and Alice Andrada of Alabang fifth.

NGAP president Rod Feliciano was on hand to award the trophies and prizes during the awarding ceremonies last night at Sugarlandia.

OTHER RESULTS:

Team Event: Wack Wack IV 250, Riviera Gold 241, Lanang 241.

Class A (11-17 handicap): Malta Lustre (Negros) 136, Cecil Co (Lanang) 132, Cynthia Antonio (Villamor) 130.

Class B (18-23): Aurora Ibo (Riviera) 109, Sylvia Singson (Wack Wack) 107, Arlette Dizon (Southwoods) 107.

Class C (24-29): Grace Banas (Bacolod) 111, Aloma Lopez (Wack Wack) 105, Ellen Chua (Wack Wack) 104.

Class D (30-36): Victoria Tan (Lanang) 90 beat Farah Imperial of Wack Wack by playoff—bogey vs double bogey—on No. 10; Ester Garcia (Wack Wack) 86.

RP Cup bets rip Sri Lanka

By Jong Arcano

ABADIA: 47-minute win.

JESS YUSON

THE PHILIPPINES racked up its third straight shutout victory at the expense of Sri Lanka yesterday to move within a match of elevation as the hosts advanced to the crossover semifinals of the Davis Cup Asia Oceania Group III Tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Relegated to Group III for the first time since 1986 last year after getting booted out by Iran, the Filipinos will dispute one of the two Group II slots with Tajikistan at 9:30 a.m. today.

Johnny Arcilla and Adelo Abadia annihilated their singles rivals but Rolando Ruel and Joseph Victorino needed to come back from an opening-set loss in doubles play to complete the 3-0 demolition of the Sri Lankans.

The Filipinos, who had earlier posted similar 3-0 wins over Bahrain and Singapore, topped Group A and Tajikistan got a shot at them as the second qualifier in Group B.

Tajikistan lost, 0-3, to top Group B qualifier Kazakhstan for a 2-1 record. Kazakhstan plays Singapore in the other semis match.

The winners today will duel for the Group III championship tomorrow.

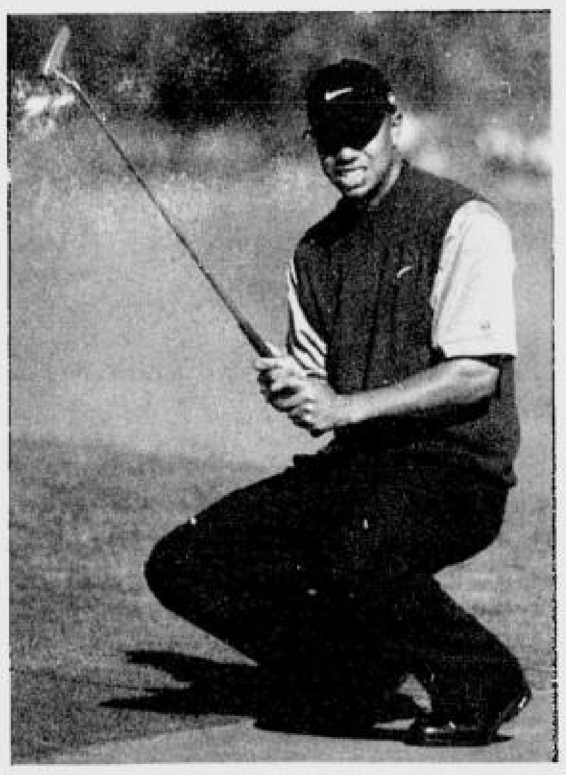
RP non-playing captain Joseph Lizardo said the doubles match will play a crucial role.

"I might play Arcilla and Abadia together since they are a solid duo. It will all have to depend on the circumstances," said Lizardo. "We will have to work doubly harder tomorrow."

Arcilla, still to yield a set, sustained his streak with a 4-2, 4-2, 5-4 (7-2) win over Renouk Wijimanne in one hour and 25 minutes, while Abadia needed just 47 minutes in beating Dinuka Ranaweera, 4-0, 4-0, 4-1.

Losing the first set (2-4), Ruel and Victorino recovered in time to take the next three at 4-1, 4-0 and 5-3 against Ranaweera and Subramaniam.

Unknown leads Love by 1 in Buick tilt; Tiger 6 down



WOODS reacts after missing an eagle putt on the 14th hole. AP

LA JOLLA, California—Brent Geiberger is living proof that golf can be a pain in the neck, but Thursday he fired a bogey-free round of 64 to lead red-hot Davis Love after the first round of the $3.5 million Buick Invitational.

More than seven months after suffering a pinched nerve in his neck which still affects him, Geiberger got to eight-under at the north course at Torrey Pines for a one-shot lead over Love, who played on the more difficult south course.

Chris Smith was two strokes behind, while defending champion Phil Mickelson, who missed Wednesday's pro-am due to a bout of food poisoning, bounced back to shoot 68.

World number one Tiger Woods posted a 70 after a late double bogey.

The 32-year-old Geiberger, the adopted son of Al Geiberger, the first man to shoot 59 on the PGA Tour, first began suffering neck and shoulder pain in the middle of last year.

"I just woke up one day and my shoulder was hurting," he said. "That was right before I went back to Hartford to defend my title. It was very painful.

"I played the next week in Chicago and I had twinges and numbness in my arm. I didn't know what was going on. I only played a handful of times the rest of the year."

Geiberger still has not fully recovered, and has been told that there's no guarantee he ever will.

"They've told me it reverses for some people and others are stuck with it. Rest and rehab are the best things for it. I'm trying to take care of myself and practice as hard as I can."

But Geiberger can not practice as hard as he would ideally like, nor can he play as often as he would prefer, so not surprisingly his confidence has begun to suffer.

A 64, however, should boost his spirits, coming as it did with six birdies along with an eagle at the par-4 second, where he pitched in with a sand wedge from 30 yards.

Love, meanwhile, continued the sizzling form he displayed last Sunday in the final round at Pebble Beach, where he came from seven strokes behind to shoot 63 and secure his first victory in nearly three years.

That performance prompted Love to enter this week's event at the last minute, and it seems to have been a wise decision.

"I'm a big believer in confidence," said Love, who received a major dose of it on Sunday. "Confidence can carry you. It doesn't mean you're going to hit every shot well but you are more patient.

"It's easier to be patient when you've won. I was very excited to get out there today. It took a long time for Thursday to arrive."

Woods, on the other hand, was clearly in an unhappy mood after frittering away a good round. He was tied for the lead at one stage, but dropped two shots at the par-3 sixth hole, his 15th, on the north course, after rifling his tee shot over the green and taking two chips to find the putting surface.

"I left a lot of shots out there," lamented Woods. "I hit a lot of good shots to 15 feet and in. I had my chances. I lipped out six (putts)." *Reuters*

7-cock derby entries submission on Sunday

THE SUBMISSION of entries to the "RLB 12th Annual Valentine 7-Cock Derby" will be held this Sunday at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc., the event is set for Feb. 12 and 14.

This will be Mandaluyong Coliseum's first major derby for 2001 that falls on Monday and Wednesday, to accommodate the request of derby host Richard Bates.

Considered as one of the longest running derby promotions in the country, the two-day cockfest is always anticipated by fans because of the star-studded cast organized by Bates.

Aside from United Cockers of the Philippines (Ucap) and National Cockers Association (NCA) members, Bates also invited cockers from Negros Occidental, Cebu, Iloilo, Batangas, Cavite, Pampanga, Zambales and Bulacan.

Meanwhile, the team of Boy de Roca, Danny Ty and Boy Garcia, one of the most active in the national cockfighting circuit, plays host to the "BLBG Showdown 6-Cock Derby" on Feb. 20 and 22.

On Feb. 27 and March 1 is the "5th Ucap/BJ Greenwood 6-Cock Derby" hosted by Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos.

Roligon meet resumes

THE Cyberfriends (*balikbayan* cockers) continue their quest for cocking excellence tonight as the finals of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Grand 11th Anniversary derby resumes with 86 matches lined up.

Three other bets beat all odds to share the day champion honors last Thursday by scoring four straight wins each.

They are Dennis del Rosario of the BJ INC DVH entry fighting roosters form top Bacolod breeder Danilo Hinlo, Bicolnon entry Kaunalran and the B.C.L. entry of Marcelino "Boboy" Hiponia of Bgy. Caldingan, Oton, Iloilo City fielding Radio Line and Roundhead crosses.

Meanwhile, it is all systems go for the much-awaited "Super Karambola sa Mega" 4-Cock Derby on Feb. 17-24. Host is Lando S. Luzong.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA By MR. 999

Race 1—1. Wing Man 2. Red Hahn 3. Laser City
Race 2—1. Dressed to Impress 2. Summer Dreams 3. Mrs. Big
Race 3—1. Star Sapphire 2. Mary Jane Girl 3. Cristel Jay 4. Morning Glory
Race 4—1. Silver Gray 2. Raise A Fire 3. Maria Nevada 4. Bambino
Race 5—1. Brenda Starr 2. Lucky Swing 3. Feast of Diamond 4. Dynasouls 5. Touch of Jax
Race 6—1. Mark's Treasure 2. Kiss Me Quick 3. The Topnotcher 4. Grace and Fortune 5. Respect the Ace
Race 7—1. Golden Eagle 2. Heavenly
Race 8—1. Exchange Deal 2. Dr. Jones 3. Let Me Pass 4. Heir Apparent
Race 9—1. Sweet Lover 2. Kay Rufina 3. Uncle Zaam 4. En Carta
Race 10—1. Gimme A Ring 2. Might and Power 3. Avalanche
Race 11—1. Stock Rising 2. Colo Marlin 3. Traktora 4. Sham Snap
Race 12—1. Wag Ingay 2. Nobel Prize 3. Charito 4. Virtual Reality
Race 13—1. Shuttle's Magic 2. Wan Star 3. Friendly Lover
Race 14—1. Always Remember 2. Snowy's Best 3. Parola Sunrise 4. Baby My Beloved 5. Time Street

Jones lauded

NEW YORK—Marion Jones remembers reading with pride and with shock about the great Jesse Owens when she was an elementary school student in Palmdale, California.

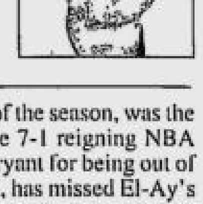
"I was a tomboy. I liked athletics," Jones said Thursday, after receiving the 2001 Jesse Owens International Trophy Award as the world's outstanding amateur athlete for last year. "That's why I was reading about people like Jesse." *AP*

NBA RESULTS

Char-otte 101, Atlanta 84; Houston 103, Detroit 90; Toronto 99, Denver 91; New Jersey 99, San Antonio 97. *AP*

Carter, Bryant playing

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

VINCE Carter, the high-flying star of the Toronto Raptors, will be at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Feb. 12 (Manila time, 7 a.m.), for the 50th renewal of the NBA All-Star Game, although a sore left knee will prevent him from showcasing his aerial acrobatics.

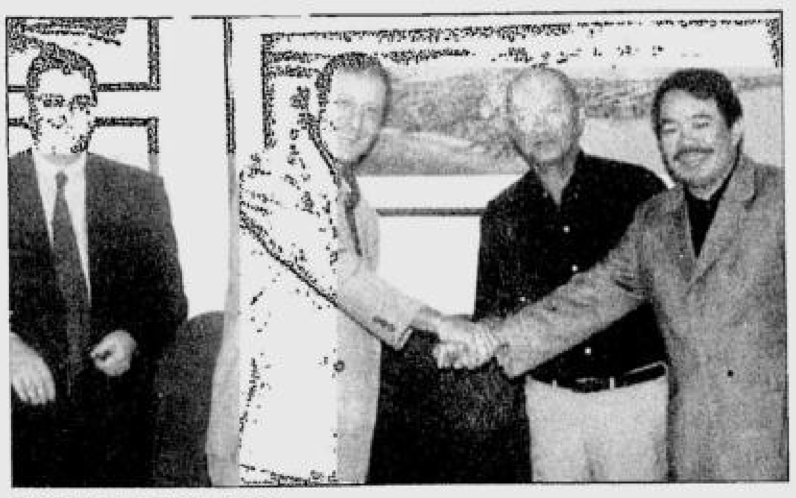
Kobe Bryant, the LA Lakers' explosive guard who leads the league in point production with a 29.9 clip, will also be there despite nursing a sore right shoulder and various other injuries amid an alleged threat of a fine and five-game suspension from the NBA powers that be if he snubbed the event.

The presence of Carter and Bryant in the All-Star Game should perk up an otherwise lackluster cast that earlier saw the withdrawal of three players voted by the fans to the starting lineups—Orlando's Grant Hill and Miami's Alonzo Mourning in the East and the Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal in the West.

O'Neal, who has engaged in a running feud with Bryant over turf supremacy through the first half of the season, was the latest withdrawal. The 7-1 reigning NBA MVP, criticized by Bryant for being out of shape and overweight, has missed El-Ay's last six games (4-2) going into the All-Star break with a strained arch in his right foot.

NBA Commissioner David Stern, adding some international flavor to the midwinter spectacle, designated Vlade Divac, the Sacramento Kings center from Yugoslavia, as Shaq's replacement. Before that, Stern tapped New York's Latrell Sprewell (the commish's nemesis whose contract with Golden State he terminated in December 1997 after Spree choke-held then-Warriors coach P.J. Carlesimo during a team practice—an arbitrator reinstated his contract three months later and Spree was suspended for the final 68 games of the 1997-98 season, a punishment that he even challenged in a lawsuit against the NBA) and Atlanta's Dikembe Mutombo (the NBA's top rebounder to replace Hill and Mourning, respectively.

Composing the East All-Star squad, to be coached by the 76ers' Larry Brown, are Carter (6-6, F), Sprewell (6-5, F), Mutombo (7-2, C), Philadelphia's Theo Ratliff (6-10, F, the league's No. 1 shot-blocker) and Allen Iverson (6-0, G), Orlando's Tracy McGrady (6-8, G), Milwaukee's Ray Allen (6-5, G) and Glenn Robinson (6-7, F), New York's Allan Houston (6-6, G), New Jersey's Stephon Marbury (6-2, G), Miami's Anthony Mason (6-8, F) and Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse (6-6, G). Brown has chosen his own center Ratliff to join Carter, Iverson and McGrady on the East starting roster. The other forward starter is still up for grabs, though.



CORPORATE CUP

THE ANNUAL Corporate Cup received a big boost recently with the entry of the GP Barnes Group of Companies and the Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club as major backers. Shown after signing the sponsorship contracts are, from right, Fil-Estate Land Inc. vice chair Toti Cariño, event organizer Cecil Hechanova, Gregory P. Barnes and Simon Griffiths, managing director of Underground Holdings. The seniors event will be held Feb. 27-28 and the regular men's play on March 6-7.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Drag races at Harbor Center

THE PHILIPPINE Drag Racing Familysport (PDRF) will again feature national record attempts to land in the 10-second quarter mile drag racing time zone when it holds races today at the Manila Harbor Center. Drivers to watch are Raymond Go and Ojie Manuric. The PDRF will award a cash prize of P8,800 to the record breaker.

GAME 5 TODAY

Shark, Welcoat gun for vital win

Series tied at 2-2:
Game 1—Welcoat 72, Shark 59
Game 2—Welcoat 92, Shark 86
Game 3—Shark 65, Welcoat 50
Game 4—Shark 62 Welcoat 50

BY DENNIS U. EROA

INSPIRED by its new-found ferocity, Shark Energy Drink seeks to achieve the previously unthinkable as it tackles titleholder Welcoat Paints in Game 5 of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

The series is tied at 2-2 as Shark won Games 3 and 4 after surrendering the first two games against Welcoat which is gunning for its fourth straight crown. A victory in the 3 p.m. match will not only give Shark the upper hand but duplicate Welcoat's 0-3 start this conference.

"There's no doubt that momentum is on our side," said Shark mentor Leo Austria. "But I expect Welcoat to bounce back."

Proving that they can frolick under tremendous pressure, the Power Boosters have earned standing ovation from the fans. The shift from being underdogs to legitimate title contenders was swift, catching Welcoat offguard.

Coach Leo Austria vowed to continue wearing Welcoat's red color which he termed as lucky charm.

But Raymond Yu, the young-looking Welcoat owner, said his charges aren't ready to surrender. "They can wear red shoes, underwear, shirts, socks, etc... but at the end of the day we'll be triumphant. The team remains confident," Yu told sportswriters.

Welcoat swept Shark, 4-0, in the Chairman's Cup. Welcoat is known for its ability to recover mightily after losing previously.

Austria said the series is now best-of-three. "It's even now. We're back in square one," said Austria. He added that Welcoat hasn't really adjusted well in the last two games, giving Shark the advantage.

Austria's main innovation was putting the smaller but speedier duo of Michael Robinson and Warren Ybañez to the prolific Ren Ren Ritualo. Irvin Sotto, Ryzal Castro and Gerald Ortega are also doing wonders in the paint.

The 6-foot-1 Ritualo, a master of the pick, continued to finish in double figures but what hurt Welcoat was the inconsistent shows of Jojo Manalo, Yancy de Ocampo, Allen Patrimonio, Anton Villoria, Eugene Tan and Celino Cruz.

EUGENE Tan of Welcoat (left) steps on the line after losing the ball as Shark's Michael Robinson defends in Game 4 of their PBL championship series. Shark prevailed, 62-50.
ROMY HOMILLADA

POC orders Jalasco to call for snap polls

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee still recognizes Freddie Jalasco as the president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, but directed him to call a snap poll to legitimize his presidency.

This was the decision reached by the POC executive board yesterday as it ruled that the BAP meetings and elections on Dec. 22 and Jan. 17 which ousted Jalasco and installed Tiny Literal to the presidency were not in accordance with the BAP charter.

However, the POC expects Jalasco to make good of his promise to submit himself to a snap election, including the establishment of an electorate that fits snugly with the BAP constitution and by-laws.

The Olympic body also directed Jalasco to furnish the POC a copy of the details, which includes the procedures, guidelines and timetable of the election 15 days from now. The elections were tentatively set Feb. 18.

Should Literal appeal his case before the executive board, POC president Celso Dayrit said he needs to get the nod of at least two-thirds of the general assembly.

Present during the POC executive board meeting were International Olympic Committee representative Frank Elizalde, first vice president Steve Hontiveros, sailing's Claudio Altura, rowing's Benjie Ramos, football's Rene Adad, secretary general Romeo Ribaño, POC legal counsel Victor Africa, boxing's Manny Lopez and Buddy Andrada of tennis and Dayrit.

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RP cagers going south

THE PHILIPPINE men's team will embark on a southern tour from Feb. 23-March 1 as part of its preparations for four international tournaments.

Head coach Boyzie Zamar said the Nationals would visit the cities of Cebu, Bacolod, Ozamis, Tangub and Dipolog, where they would play exhibition games and conduct cage clinics.

Manila center Romel Adducul has been named skipper of the team set to defend the Philippines' crowns in the Southeast Asia Basketball Association and Southeast Asian Games men's championships. Also being eyed are stints in the ABC men's tilt in Bangkok and the Jones Cup in Taipei in July.

The provincial tour is the Nationals' first after being formed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines last December. It is being sponsored and arranged by Rexona, through product manager Ronnie Beltran and event organizer Albert Almendralejo.

Given the first chance to test the Nationals are the Cebu Gems on Feb. 24 at the Cebu City Coliseum; followed by the Negros Slashers, the MBA runners-up, on Feb. 25 at the St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City. *Roy Luarca*

Delasin just 3 off in Hawaii

PSA Athlete of the Year Dorothy Joy Delasin fired a two-under-par 70 yesterday to trail frontrunner Sweden's Maria Hjorth by just three strokes after the first round of the LPGA Tour's Takefuji Classic at the Kona Country Club in Hawaii.

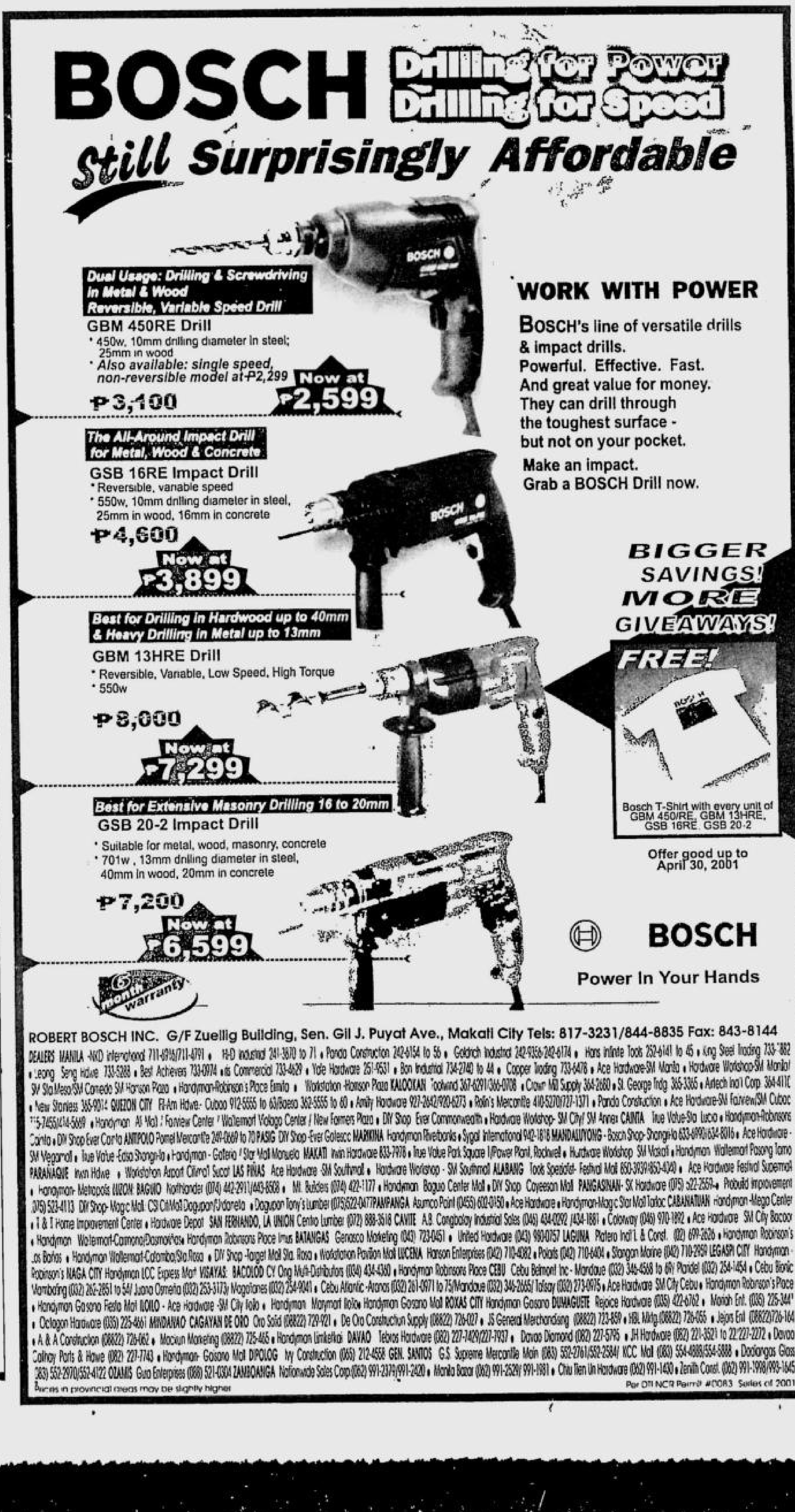
Delasin, who had won just $6,619 in the two legs she played, made three birdies against a lone bogey for her strongest start so far in the LPGA and joined the star-studded group at that included Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam.

Jennifer Rosales, in the Top 13 of the money list after a third-place finish in the Office Depot in Florida, opened with a 78 and was in danger of missing the cut. *Jong Arcano*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r- 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA—Minnesota Golden Golphers vs Northwestern Wildcats at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA—San Antonio Spurs vs New Jersey Nets at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chinese National Basketball League, Quarterfinals at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Day Two at 1 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Takefuji Classic Kona, Second Round at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: WTA Toray Pan Pacific Open, Semifinals at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
BOXING: Great Fights of the Mid 50s at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN



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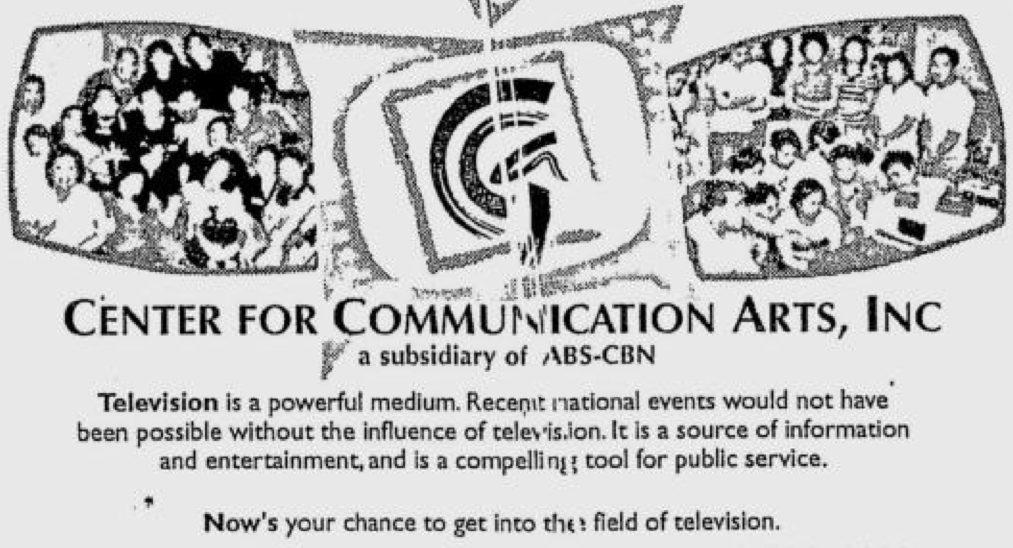

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Drag races at Harbor Center

THE PHILIPPINE Drag Racing Familysport (PDRF) will again feature national record attempts to land in the 10-second quarter mile drag racing time zone when it holds races today at the Manila Harbor Center. Drivers to watch are Raymond Go and Ojie Manuric. The PDRF will award a cash prize of P8,800 to the record breaker.

GAME 5 TODAY

Shark, Welcoat gun for vital win

Series tied at 2-2:
Game 1—Welcoat 72, Shark 59
Game 2—Welcoat 92, Shark 86
Game 3—Shark 65, Welcoat 50
Game 4—Shark 62 Welcoat 50

BY DENNIS U. EROA

INSPIRED by its new-found ferocity, Shark Energy Drink seeks to achieve the previously unthinkable as it tackles titleholder Welcoat Paints in Game 5 of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

The series is tied at 2-2 as Shark won Games 3 and 4 after surrendering the first two games against Welcoat which is gunning for its fourth straight crown. A victory in the 3 p.m. match will not only give Shark the upper hand but duplicate Welcoat's 0-3 start this conference.

"There's no doubt that momentum is on our side," said Shark mentor Leo Austria."But I expect Welcoat to bounce back."

Proving that they can frolick under tremendous pressure, the Power Boosters have earned standing ovation from the fans. The shift from being underdogs to legitimate title contenders was swift, catching Welcoat offguard.

Coach Leo Austria vowed to continue wearing Welcoat's red color which he termed as lucky charm.

But Raymond Yu, the young-looking Welcoat owner, said his charges aren't ready to surrender."They can wear red shoes, underwear, shirts, socks, etc… but at the end of the day we'll be triumphant. The team remains confident," Yu told sportswriters.

Welcoat swept Shark, 4-0, in the Chairman's Cup. Welcoat is known for its ability to recover mightily after losing previously.

Austria said the series is now best-of-three. "It's even now. We're back in square one," said Austria. He added that Welcoat hasn't really adjusted well in the last two games, giving Shark the advantage.

Austria's main innovation was putting the smaller but speedier duo of Michael Robinson and Warren Ybañez to the prolific Ren Ren Ritualo. Irvin Sotto, Ryzal Castro and Gerald Ortega are also doing wonders in the paint.

The 6-foot-1 Ritualo, a master of the pick, continued to finish in double figures but what hurt Welcoat was the inconsistent shows of Jojo Manalo, Yancy de Ocampo, Allen Patrimonio, Anton Villoria, Eugene Tan and Celino Cruz.

EUGENE Tan of Welcoat (left) steps on the line after losing the ball as Shark's Michael Robinson defends in Game 4 of their PBL championship series. Shark prevailed, 62-50.

ROMY HOMILLADA

POC orders Jalasco to call for snap polls

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee still recognizes Freddie Jalasco as the president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, but directed him to call a snap poll to legitimize his presidency.

This was the decision reached by the POC executive board yesterday as it ruled that the BAP meetings and elections on Dec. 22 and Jan. 17 which ousted Jalasco and installed Tiny Literal to the presidency were not in accordance with the BAP charter.

However, the POC expects Jalasco to make good of his promise to submit himself to a snap election, including the establishment of an electorate that fits snugly with the BAP constitution and by-laws.

The Olympic body also directed Jalasco to furnish the POC a copy of the details, which includes the procedures, guidelines and timetable of the election 15 days from now. The elections were tentatively set Feb. 18.

Should Literal appeal his case before the executive board, POC president Celso Dayrit said he needs to get the nod of at least two-thirds of the general assembly.

Present during the POC executive board meeting were International Olympic Committee representative Frank Elizalde, first vice president Steve Hontiveros, sailing's Claudio Altura, rowing's Benjie Ramos, football's Rene Adad, secretary general Romeo Ribaño, POC legal counsel Victor Africa, boxing's Manny Lopez and Buddy Andrada of tennis and Dayrit.

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RP cagers going south

THE PHILIPPINE men's team will embark on a southern tour from Feb. 23-March 1 as part of its preparations for four international tournaments.

Head coach Boyzie Zamar said the Nationals would visit the cities of Cebu, Bacolod, Ozamis, Tangub and Dipolog, where they would play exhibition games and conduct cage clinics.

Manila center Romel Adducul has been named skipper of the team set to defend the Philippines' crowns in the Southeast Asia Basketball Association and Southeast Asian Games men's championships. Also being eyed are stints in the ABC men's tilt in Bangkok and the Jones Cup in Taipei.in July.

The provincial tour is the Nationals' first after being formed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines last December. It is being sponsored and arranged by Rexona, through product manager Ronnie Beltran and event organizer Albert Almendralejo.

Given the first chance to test the Nationals are the Cebu Gems on Feb. 24 at the Cebu City Coliseum; followed by the Negros Slashers, the MBA runners-up, on Feb. 25 at the St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r- 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA—Minnesota Golden Golphers vs Northwestern Wildcats at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA—San Antonio Spurs vs New Jersey Nets at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chinese National Basketball League, Quarterfinals at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Day Two at 1 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Takefuji Classic Kona, Second Round at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS WTA Toray Pan Pacific Open, Semifinals at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
BOXING: Great Fights of the Mid 50s at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN

Delasin just 3 off in Hawaii

PSA Athlete of the Year Dorothy Joy Delasin fired a two-under-par 70 yesterday to trail frontrunner Sweden's Maria Hjorth by just three strokes after the first round of the LPGA Tour's Takefuji Classic at the Kona Country Club in Hawaii.

Delasin, who had won just $6,619 in the two legs she played, made three birdies against a lone bogey for her strongest start so far in the LPGA and joined the star-studded group at that included Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam.

Jennifer Rosales, in the Top 13 of the money list after a third-place finish in the Office Depot in Florida, opened with a 78 and was in danger of missing the cut. *Jong Arcano*

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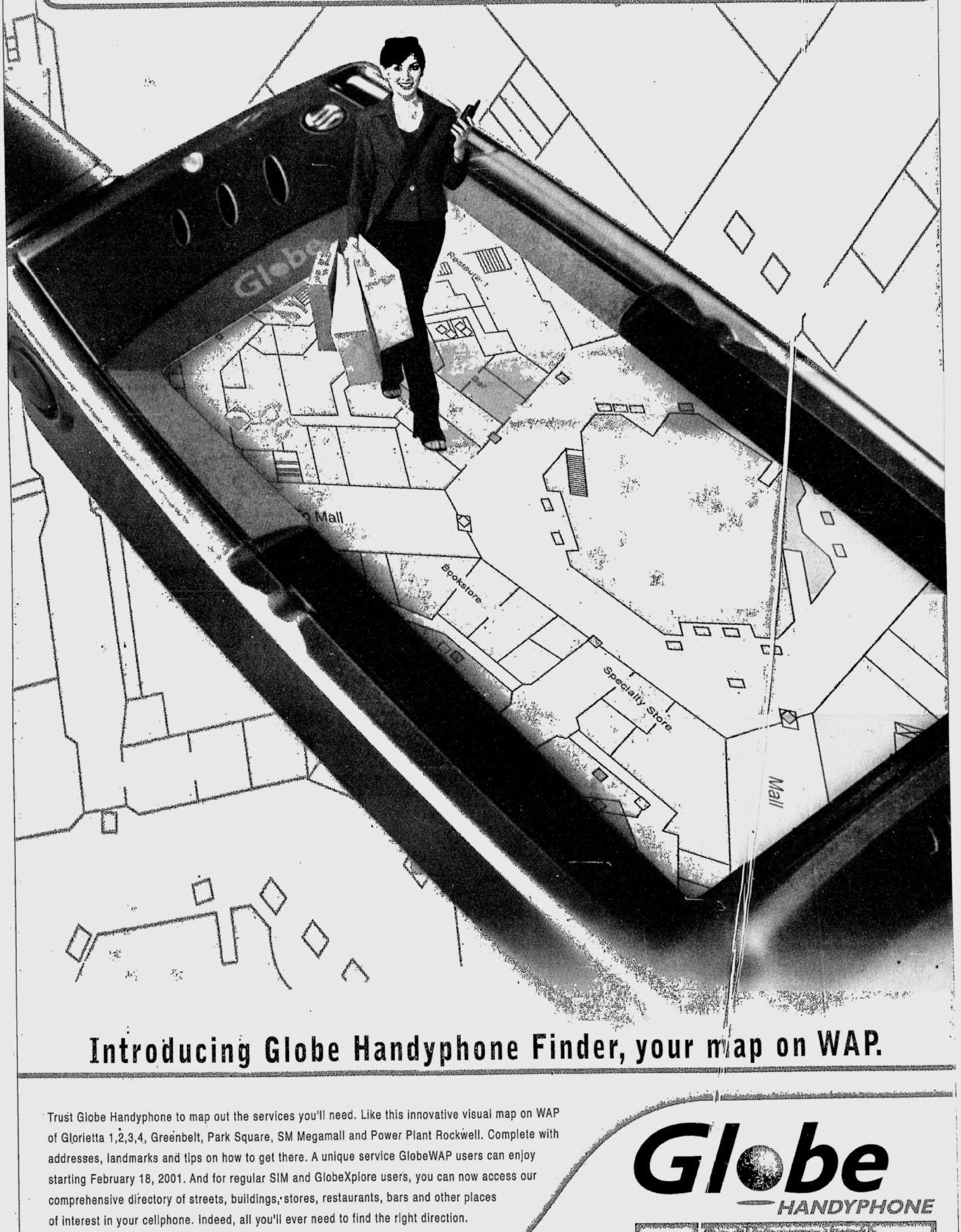

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Jovit Moya out of Naia

FORMER "That's Entertainment" star and now Inspector Jovit Moya has been taken off the airport beat for his allegedly abusive behavior. Moya also appeared in several movies before making a career switch. The Aviation Security Group on Wednesday recalled Moya's assignment as security aide to Ninoy Aquino International Airport general manager Edgardo Manda.

JOVIT/ A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Imelda: Give me a little more time A24

Colonel cleared of jueteng connection

Navarro may be reinstated Muntinlupa police chief

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A FORMER Muntinlupa City police chief on Thursday was cleared of charges that he received protection money from *jueteng* operators in the city.

Prosecutor Mary Antonette Yalao-Villegas, of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military, said the evidence against Supt. Rolando Navarro "failed to provide convincing proof that the money allegedly given out by the complainant was actually received by respondent (Navarro) or his representative."

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by Gerra Ejercito, who claimed to be a niece of deposed President Estrada.

Ejercito alleged that she conducted *jueteng* operations "under the conditions set by Navarro from February 1999 until she reported the matter to (Southern Police District director) Supt. Manuel Cabigon in May 2000."

Ejercito claimed she gave Navarro "jueteng money" of P122,100 every week and a total of P568,000 every month as protection money.

Navarro denied Ejercito's accusations, saying they were "fabricated."

He said that as city police chief, he has "always been persistent and consistent" in his campaign against *jueteng* and all forms of gambling.

Muntinlupa City Hall insiders said the Ombudsman's decision could pave the way for Navarro's reinstatement to his old post.

However, Mayor Jaime Fresnedi has yet to receive a copy of the Ombudsman's three-page decision.

During the time of former Philippine National Police chief Director General Panfilo Lacson, Fresnedi repeatedly called for Ejercito's arrest but she remained free even after she confessed her illegal activities to Cabigon.

Electoral protest against Taguig Mayor Papa dismissed A24

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Imelda: Give me a little more time

By Jerome Aning

TO RUN or not to run for Manila mayor. This is the question many supporters of former First Lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos have been waiting for her to answer.

Marcos, however, postponed giving the answer to scores of eager supporters who greeted her when she visited her family's old house on Jesus Street in Pandacan, Manila yesterday morning.

"Please give me a little more time to make this important decision to run for mayor of Manila," said the former first lady, who was wearing a violet sleeveless blouse and brown slacks.

"Because of the prevailing political and economic situation, I know I must make my final decision where I will be of better service to the country and the Filipino people," she added.

But even if she is still undecided, the former first lady said she is confident she has the advantage over her opponents in the race—incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza, former mayors Alfredo Lim and Gemiliano Lopez, and former congressman Amado Bagatsing.

Marcos said she would revive her husband's Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party and would run under it if she would decide to seek the mayor's seat. She has until Feb. 28 to filer her certificate of candidacy.

She said that if she would be elected, she would give priority to the basic needs of city residents like health support, housing and jobs.

She boasted of her achievements, particularly the edifices she built when she was Metro Manila governor and human settlements minister for 11 years during the administration of her husband, the late dictator President Marcos.

She stressed she is still in good shape and could very well manage to campaign.

The former first lady was defeated when she run for president in 1992 but was elected representative of Leyte a few years later. In 1998, she aborted another presidential bid.

Marcos and other members of her family are facing many cases of human rights violation and corruption stemming from her husband's 20-year rule.

Ferdinand and Imelda first met when he was still a senator and she a contestant of the Mutya ng Maynila beauty pageant. He was ousted in the first Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986.

Ping Lacson eats his words

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson is running for the Senate.

If he thinks he will win, he has another think coming.

Although Lacson is good-looking, he doesn't have charisma. He doesn't have the common touch unlike his classmate at the Philippine Military Academy, Gregorio Honasan. He's not friendly and approachable.

Yes, he had high ratings in the popularity surveys before. But that was before his boss Erap was driven out of Malacañang. Lacson won't win because he was identified closely with Erap.

* * *

Local officials will not support Lacson, most of whom he had offended when he was still in power. The support of local officials like mayors, governors and congressmen is vital to a senatorial candidate.

The 52-year-old Caviteño was so drunk with power like Erap he insulted politicians who sought his favor when he was PNP chief.

His famous or infamous words were: "I hate politicians."

Now, he wants to become one.

* * *

Actually, Lacson had his sights trained on the presidency in 2004. But People Power II had dashed all his hopes.

Although he has poor PR (public relations), he thought that he would win the presidency through the so-called patronage politics.

He would allegedly dispense financial favors to local officials through the Bingo 2 Balls, a proposed version of *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game. He would use the PNP's share of the proceeds of Bingo 2 Balls, an enormous amount, to give to people and institutions that would support his presidential candidacy. Of course, he would also tap rich Chinoy businessmen who were close to Erap.

* * *

Former presidential adviser and chief government hostage negotiator Robert Aventajado described fresh reports that he skimmed off ransom payments for the release of European hostages as "recycled garbage."

Yes, it's recycled garbage but it's garbage nevertheless. If the report were true, Aventajado should be thrown into the "waste can," another term for prison. After serving time there, he could then be recycled as a good citizen.

Reports that he earned from the ransom payments for the European hostages keep coming back because he has never been investigated.

* * *

President Arroyo should order the Philippine National Police (PNP) to look into the veracity of the reports.

Nobody thought of investigating Aventajado during the time of deposed President Estrada because he was Erap's bosom friend.

Investigating Aventajado will be fair to him if the reports about him turn out to be lies.

* * *

There were even reports that Erap also got part of the ransom payment. But the reports were overshadowed by the impeachment trial.

Reports of the ex-President's involvement could have some basis.

Erap's cronies have said behind his back that the former President was so *"matakaw sa pera"* (greedy for money) he got money from *jueteng*, a poor man's game of chance.

* * *

A disgruntled official during the Erap administration who was kicked out of his job complained the alleged greed of the ousted president did not even spare *"piche-piche"* (small) businesses.

Erap allegedly ordered officials at the Clark Development Authority to allow his friend to put up a gasoline station inside the Clark Economic Zone.

The friend thanked Erap profusely when he came to visit the former president in Malacañang. But Erap was said to have told his friend to give him 60 percent of the profits from the gas station business.

Erap had not graduated from his days as mayor of San Juan.

* * *

Erap's corrupt ways were not lost to PNP chief Panfilo Lacson. In fact, that's the reason Lacson didn't have much respect for his Commander-in-Chief.

During the time Erap was vacillating on the replacement of deposed PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso, Lacson allegedly told friends he would arrest the former President if he were not appointed for the position.

* * *

The Philippine Coast Guard has a new chief, Rear Adm. Reuben Lista.

He replaced Coast Guard Commandant Vice Adm. Eucio Fajardo who retired yesterday. The Coast Guard leadership was immediately turned over to Lista, who was Fajardo's deputy commandant.

* * *

Lista graduated at the top of his class at the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), a government institution similar to the Philippine Military Academy. He joined the Philippine Navy in 1970.

Lista holds a masters degree in international resource planning and administration from the United States Post Graduate School; an MBA from the Ateneo de Manila University; and masters in national security administration from Command and General Staff College in Fort Bonifacio.

It would be smooth sailing for the Coast Guard with Lista at the helm. Congratulations, Ben!

Electoral protest vs Papa dismissed

By Agnes E. Donato

TWO months before the next local elections, a Pasig City court finally ruled that incumbent Taguig Mayor Ricardo Papa did not employ fraud to win the 1998 mayoral race.

Yesterday, Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 167 Judge Alfredo Flores dismissed the election protest filed against Papa by defeated candidate Dante Tinga before the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on May 29, 1998.

Tinga accused Papa of misrepresentation of voters, vote-padding and other election anomalies and irregularities.

In his 19-page decision, Judge Flores said "the votes canvassed or counted will not be increased or decreased even if tampering or manipulation of the ballots occurred after the elections."

He maintained that the evidence tends to prove, if ever, that "these anomalies and irregularities have been committed after the conduct of the elections and after the counting and canvassing of the ballots."

Earlier, Flores ruled that Tinga's allegations could only be proven by examining the ballots and other election documents.

The court then formed three revision committees to review the contested ballots in 990 precincts. The committees found that Papa won a total of 66,256 votes against Tinga's 64,168, or a margin of 2,088.

But the court decision did not go down well among Tinga's supporters, who became emotional over the ruling and threatened to stage continuous protest rallies in front of the Taguig municipal hall, which reportedly had been padlocked since Thursday when ralliers became rowdy.

During the one-hour promulgation, the protesters picketed the court grounds, denounced the court decision and even accused Judge Flores of accepting bribe for the dismissal of Tinga's protest.

Tinga said he was totally surprised by the decision and that he would study his options.

He vowed to try his luck again in the coming mayoral race and to "double efforts to prevent cheating."

"The people of Taguig deserve a better administration than Papa's," Tinga said.

His lawyer Sixto Brillantes said he still has to review the decision since the court based it solely on numbers and not on other legal issues.

Papa was not present during the promulgation but said in a separate interview that "Tinga should now concede and accept that he was not the official blessed by the people during the last election."

He said Tinga had told his supporters he would win in the election protest and that he would soon sit as mayor of Taguig.

"Tinga should now realize there were irregularities during the elections and I am the real winner as voted by the majority of Taguigeños," Papa said.

Only Papa's lawyers, Hans Santos and Agnes Maranan, were present during the promulgation. They expressed relief in having "cleared of any doubt our client's integrity and honesty."

Santos said Papa, who is on his third term as Taguig mayor, might meet Tinga again in the May elections.

Papa could still be allowed to run for another term since he was not able to serve his second term in full. Papa unseated Isidro Garcia after winning an electoral protest filed in 1995. *With Amy Bainbridge*

Student cleared of aunt's rape

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MALABON Regional Trial Court yesterday cleared a 24-year-old student of the rape charges filed against him by his 32-year-old aunt last year.

Acquitted was Enrico de la Cruz of San Miguel, Bulacan for allegedly raping for 13 months his aunt, a resident of Dama de Noche Street, Marulas, Valenzuela.

Judge Benjamin Aquino Jr. ordered the immediate release of De la Cruz from the Malabon municipal jail.

The court found reasonable doubt in the testimony of the aunt, who claimed her nephew raped her at least once a month from Jan. 20, 1999 until February 2000 in different motels.

During direct examination, the aunt told the court how her nephew supposedly abused her on Feb. 1, 2000.

She said De la Cruz forcibly took her to a motel in Barangay Potrero, Malabon and allegedly raped her there.

De la Cruz allegedly forced his aunt to have sex with him at least four times that day. The woman claimed De la Cruz threatened to kill her and her family if she would report the attack.

In his defense, De la Cruz told the court that he did not rape his aunt since they were lovers from January 1999 to February 2000.

He said his aunt even provoked him into having a relationship with her since she said her husband could not fulfill her sexual needs.

The first alleged rape on Jan. 20, 1999 was De la Cruz's birthday and the aunt invited him to go with her to a motel, court records showed.

De la Cruz said that in the motel room, his aunt immediately embraced and kissed him as a "birthday gift." This led to their first sexual intercourse.

De la Cruz said he and his aunt regularly had sex in the next 12 months.

In some cases, the aunt even phoned her nephew from his Bulacan residence to invite him to a date and it was she who always shouldered the expenses, court records showed.

Rudy F expects help from LDP in QC bid

THE LABAN ng Demokratikong Pilipino will most likely support the candidacy of movie star Rudy Fernandez, who is running for mayor of Quezon City under deposed President Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino party.

A close aide of the actor revealed this on Thursday following a meeting between Fernandez and LDP chair Edgardo Angara on Wednesday at the Manila Hotel.

Fernandez, however, clarified that he would not abandon the PMP and that he would still consult with its leaders before making a final decision.

"He will stay with the PMP and will most likely become the common candidate of the two political parties despite the recent breakaway of LDP from the coalition," said the source who asked not to be identified.

He said Fernandez would still be officially running under PMP and that the LDP would merely be endorsing his candidacy.

Fielding common candidates with other political parties is apparently an LDP effort to save itself from falling apart after it left Estrada's Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, the source said.

Apparently, the LDP does not have the needed machinery to support its candidates for local or even national posts and could not match the resources of the ruling Lakas-NUCD.

Fernandez, a veteran actor but a newcomer in politics, will face formidable rivals in the mayoral race in Quezon City, including House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Rep. Dante Liban and incumbent Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.'s son and namesake, Ismael "Chuck" Mathay III. *Andrea Trinidad- Exchavez*

Now is the best time to cash in on trash

By Constantino C. Tejero

Last of two parts

ODETTE Alcantara, who's also a community organizer, cultural worker, chess player and friend of the arts, says our garbage problem is a people problem, an attitude problem, a behavioral problem.

"The government is corrupt, the citizens are irresponsible, the businessmen are greedy, the Church is disinterested, the NGOs are marginalized, and only a handful of men and women in the media understand the difference between waste management and garbage disposal," rues Alcantara.

She is also vehemently against incinerator, which some people are proposing as an alternative solution to the problem of finding available landfills and dumpsites.

"It is extremely expensive [$14 billion] and extremely dangerous [emitting toxic fumes, dioxins and furans]," she says. "The product is toxic ash, which is more dangerous than the matter it burns. It compounds the problem. Also, an incinerator has to run continuously or the machine will malfunction."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, 18 percent of whose city's budget is spent on garbage collection alone, is still appealing to Congress to repeal the Clean Air Act so his city could set up a pollution-free type of incinerator. It supposedly uses plasma-based technology in the disposal of garbage.

"I don't know about that kind of technology or that type of incinerator," says Alcantara. "Incinerator cannot make garbage disappear, but instead produces one-third ash—toxic ash—which is neither fertilizer nor raw material. And why would you burn recyclables and compostables? Why would you burn resources?"

The first law

A garbage summit held last Friday ended in a cacophony of dueling voices. Most of the participants were one in saying it is the government's responsibility to clean up their trash—or what is the MMDA there for?

Rather, Alcantara believes it is incumbent upon every citizen to deal with his or her own trash. *"Problema mo 'yun, ba't MMDA ang pasolbahin mo?"* she huffs. "If at all, the MMDA should concentrate on the traffic."

She points out her village in Quezon City as a showcase of self-sufficiency and efficacy in dealing with the garbage problem. "Blue Ridge is not an exceptional community. The residents are as good or as bad as in any other community. But we just decided to help ourselves—just as simple as that.

"When no one helps you, that's the time when you realize you have to help yourself."

Model village

The community's environmental group, Mother Earth, chaired by Tes Choa, led the villagers in segregating their wastes at the source.

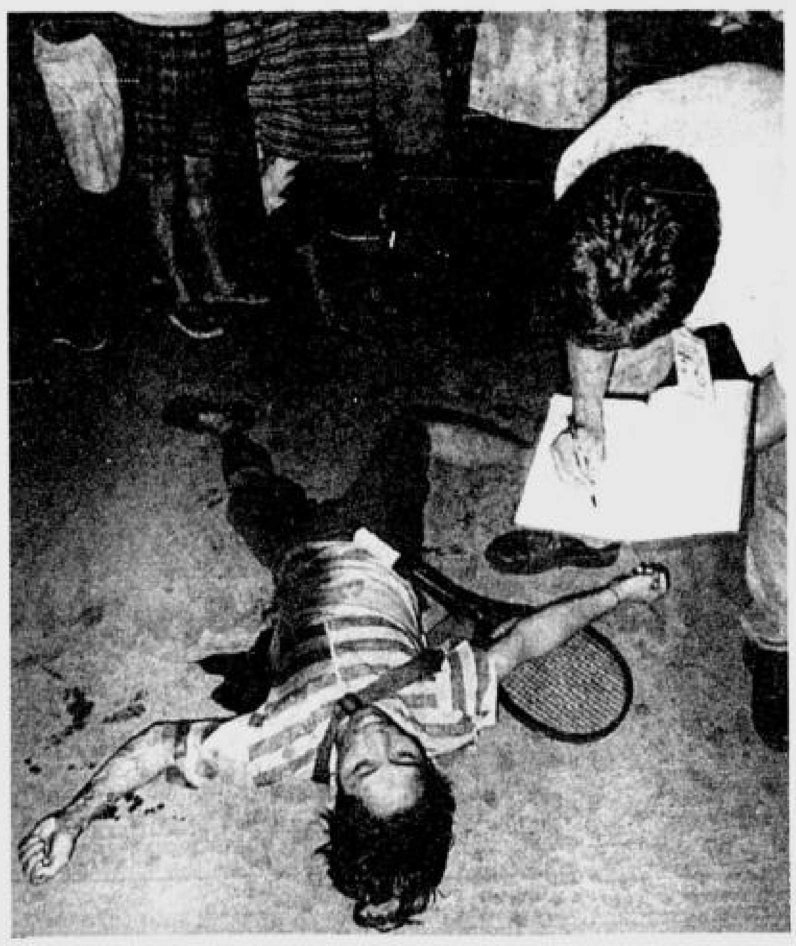
Now all of Blue Ridge's 350 households are composting and recycling their wastes, cleaning their streets. A visitor won't see any trash can or garbage drum on street corners, but instead would marvel at the lush growths of trees and bushes.

There's a 600-sq m ecology garden where villagers bring and bury their biodegradables.

On a higher place is another compost ground, the village park that's now turning into a mini rain forest.

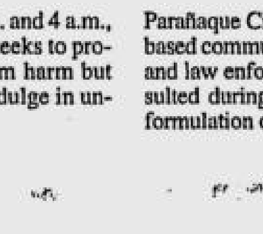
In front of the ecology garden is an eco shed, the recycling center where stuff are sorted out and packed before they're taken to the factories. The community has three eco-aides, who receive the minimum wage from the barangay council.

Three years ago, in Alcantara's house was put up a training center (tel. 6471181, 6471143, 6477935), where people are taught the basics of ecological waste management. It's a daily workshop for free.



OVER MARIJUANA
Roderick Belison was stabbed to death on a street in Sta. Cruz, Manila on Thursday. Police said a still unidentified attacker stabbed Belison after he allegedly refused to share his marijuana. CALOY SANCHEZ

Curfew for Parañaque kids



BUSTAMANTE

CHILDREN 15 years old and below are banned from the streets of Parañaque from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., according to Parañaque Councilor Jesus C. Bustamnnte, principal author of the local youth curfew ordinance.

Bustamante said that since incidents of public disorder, crimes and other anti-social activities generally occur between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., City Ordinance No. 99-12 seeks to protect the youth not only from harm but also from temptations to indulge in unwholesome activities.

Bustamante, who is also chair of the Parañaque council's committee on public order and safety, said that for the first offense, the minor is reprimanded and the parents or guardians are informed of the violation. The maximum penalty for subsequent offenses is a fine of P500 or eight hours of community work.

The two-term Parañaque City councilor said barangay-based community leaders, social workers and law enforcers were extensively consulted during the conceptualization and formulation of City Ordinance 99-12.

Holy Spirit, not Ateneo

MRS. Ma. Mirella Clarete, who was quoted in yesterday's story, "Ateneo officials rule out jealousy in boy's suicide," wrote to say that she is "the Juniors PTA Level Representative from the Holy Spirit and not from Ateneo" as mentioned in the report.

Clarete was referring to the report on the death of Ateneo High School student Christian Duke Pizarro, 17, who shot himself before dawn Sunday after attending the Holy Spirit junior prom with a Holy Spirit student. Pizarro died early Monday night.

The Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit desk officer earlier told the Inquirer that Pizarro killed himself because he got jealous when his girlfriend danced with another student during the prom.

Clarete said she wanted "to correct the impression that our student, Duke's partner, was irresponsible. The couple never danced at all and neither were they separated during the prom."

Investigators on Thursday said that according to notes that Pizarro wrote as early as last October, the young man had been feeling sad and wanted to have a gun of his own.

Jovit Moya . . .

(From page A23)

Airport officials yesterday said they merely acted on several complaints which had been lodged against Moya for his alleged abuses.

Officials said it was Manda himself who asked the ASG to recall Moya's appointment because the former entertainer was beginning to taint the image of the Manila International Airport Authority.

Moya was Manda's aide for exactly two weeks.

Some people welcomed Moya's recall from the airport beat.

"He had it coming," said a policeman who asked not to be named. "He should have been relieved a long time ago. We don't need a police officer like him who throws his weight around here."

A day after Manda assumed his post on Jan. 23, Moya was accused of scolding two security guards who flagged down his vehicle for inspection at the entrance of the airport administration building. He threatened to run over the guards if they ever stopped him again.

Over the next few days, Moya reportedly berated another security guard who stopped him inside the airport for not wearing the official ID. He also allegedly threw a fit at the pass control division when his request for passes was not facilitated.

Last Sunday, he was accused of breaching security when he ignored a guard's signal to stop at a checkpoint and proceeded to drive through on a perimeter road linking Villamor Air Base to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Moya allegedly just shrugged off the complaints. *By TJ Burgonio*

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7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
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6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
7	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALHIBONG PUSA
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JC Cinema
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1 BOOBA
3 VIRGIN WIFE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
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2 BOOBA
3 WHAT WOMEN WANT
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5 BOUNCE
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7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 (SDDS) VITAL PARTS
9 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT

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3 PROOF OF LIFE
4 VITAL PART
5
6

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3 IKA-7 GLORYA
4 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
5 BOOBA
6 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 TABI TABI PO
9 BOUNCE

Commonwealth
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2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 BOUNCE
5 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
6 BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Ortigas
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1 BOOBA
2 BOUNCE
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
6 (DOLBY) VIRGIN WIFE
7 (DOLBY) IKA-7 GLORYA

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1 IKA-7 GLORYA

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1 IKA-7 GLORYA

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(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords TABI TABI PO
Jennet IKA-7 GLORYA

Mandaluyong
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1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VIRGIN WIFE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Prima
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1
3 IKA-7 GLORYA

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 BOUNCE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 VERTICAL LIMIT

Divisoria Mall
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1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
4 TABI TABI PO
5 SYOTA NG BAYAN
6 PROOF OF LIFE

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3 IKA-7 GLORYA

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1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 VITAL PART
3 (DTS) VIRGIN WIFE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS) VITAL PART
3 (DOLBY) PROOF OF LIFE
4 VIRGIN WIFE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) VIRGIN WIFE
2 VITAL PARTS
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) VITAL PARTS
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
5 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Los Baños
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2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 TABI TABI PO

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2 VERTICAL LIMIT
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

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4 VERTICAL LIMIT

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1 SYOTA NG BAYAN

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3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

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1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 LITTLE NICKY
4 TABI TABI PO

Berma
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2

CitiMall
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2 BOOBA
3 VIRGIN WIFE
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COOL, jazz, rhythm with blues combined with Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson and Kuh Ledesma are what separate Kelly Grace Salcedo from the rest of the pack.

Kelly is one of the new singers to reckon with. She sings every Friday night at Harry's Bar at the Top of the Century Park Hotel for the month of February.

Kelly Grace is backed up by a four-piece band led by Ben Uy. She is expected to belt out favorite jazz pieces and pop hits rendered in her very own soulful style.

Kelly is one of the singers in the recently launched "Awit Abroad," where she recorded a duet number with singer Nonoy Zuñiga.

Kelly will also have a Valentine's show with Juan Rodrigo and Cindy Rosas at Monte Carlo in Makati City. Musical director is Eric Narvaez..

SALCEDO. Belts out jazz tunes.

Allan K performs at Chatterbox

A WACKY pre-Valentine treat awaits lovers and non-lovers tonight at Chatterbox Galleria, when funnyman Allan K stages "Laff and Kisses," guaranteed to bring laughter and romance in a varied ways.

Chatterbox Galleria at Robinsons is close to Allan's heart, since he has performed there to a jampacked crowd when he starred in "The Naughty Nose," with Ai-Ai de las Alas and Rosanna Roces. He duplicated this feat in the same venue with his "Di Va?" series with Rufa Mae Quinto.

In "Laff and Kisses," Allan K will be joined by his "Sing-Galing" partner and friend, Ai-Ai de las Alas and the talented "Eat Bulaga" host-performer Sherilyn Reyes.

"Laff and Kisses" is sponsored by Aliw Inn. For details, call 749-6504 or 634-3298.

ALLAN K. Wacky pre-Valentine treat.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOUNCE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	IKA-7 GLORYA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	VIRGIN WIFE
MIRAMAR	GUSTO KO LANG LUMIGAYA / LA FEMME EROTIQUE
ODEON	PROOF OF LIFE
ODEON-2	VIRGIN WIFE
ROBEN	VIRGIN WIFE
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
TIMES	BEDAZZLED / THE WATCHER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR-2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	IKA-7 GLORYA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BUKID AY BASA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-2	BOUNCE
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CINEMA-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-2	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-3	BOOBA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-12	THE CONTENDER
CINEMA-14	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BOUNCE
CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Stars in politics, after The Fall

By Iskho F. Lopez

THE PERCEPTION is that Erap's downfall has seriously damaged the profile of potential politicians among movie stars.

This may yet be the biggest challenge for show biz people who will run in the May elections. Many people think it is a bad time for show biz people to enter politics, when awareness of Estrada's failed presidency remains high.

And the cynicism covers any elective post in the national, provincial or city level, including the barangay.

Hopefully, there will be a more discerning and more critical public in the coming campaign season.

That's one side of the coin. There are still those who maintain that Filipinos generally have short memories and a fan mentality that gives show biz candidates a very good chance at the polls.

Show biz and politics were never mixed in the past, except perhaps for purposes of satire. I am told that in 1946, an indefatigable General Moncado ran for president backed by a senatorial slate of popular comedians, much to the amusement of the public. There is no doubt the inspired move was treated as a joke or irreverence at the time when the national government was in its formative years. Still, Moncado, a perennial nuisance candidate, might well have been a man of vision and ahead of his time.

Years later, though, matinee idol Rogelio de la Rosa, riding the crest of his popularity in the movies, became a senator and almost the president of the Republic. It was the first substantial proof that there's room for movie stars in high government office.

Dramatic turnaround

De la Rosa's stardom then defined the meaning of popularity in show business, in much the same manner that John Wayne and Clark Gable once dominated Hollywood. In 1956, De la Rosa's performance in "Higit sa Lahat" won him the best actor trophy at the Asian Film Festival. While his achievements as a senator might not have been as distinctive as his being the romantic idol of the Philippine movies of his time, his popularity was enough justification for his seeking a presidential mandate.

In a dramatic, last minute turnaround, he withdrew his candidacy in favor of Diosdado Macapagal, whose first wife was his sister, Purita de la Rosa. De la Rosa later settled for a diplomatic post.

Interestingly, President Diosdado Macapagal and his daughter, now President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, both benefited from their show biz connections. The senior Macapagal was a *zarzuela* actor as was De la Rosa before he joined the movies.

Gloria made much of what was deemed to be her striking similarity to superstar Nora Aunor when she ran for senator. And GMA danced her way to the hearts of the voting audience and set an unprecedented record win at the polls.

That Nora Aunor strategy was dumped when GMA ran for vice president since Aunor was a main figure in Estrada's presidential campaign.

Reelectionists, first-timers

The lure of politics has seemingly become irresistible for show biz people in recent years, more so since Erap's invasion of national politics and eventual rise to the presidency.

This year, many from show biz will be seeking reelection while there are those who will be testing the political waters for the first time. Some are undaunted—like action stars Rudy Fernandez and Philip Salvador—by the possible negative impact of Estrada's impeachment on their candidacy. Even Aunor is convinced that she will have a good chance at winning the gubernatorial race in Camarines Sur.

While the list won't be final until the Feb. 12 deadline for filing of certificates of candidacy, the latest show biz name to emerge is Boots Anson-Roa for senator. But she's in for a rough ride should she seriously consider the offer from Erap's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

A recent survey in Metro Manila had TV broadcaster Noli de Castro topping the list of potential candidates for senator. Add to that list former Press Secretary Dong Puno, lawyer Kiko Pangilinan, and broadcaster Korina Sanchez. Look at what Sen. Loren Legarda has started.

> We need leaders with intelligence and conviction, leaders who will help safeguard these institutions and strengthen them. Public service is a serious concern and certainly not just an alternative career opportunity for anybody, not even for popular movie stars.

Clout and influence

An earlier list of possible political contenders among show biz people included incumbent Camarines Sur Vice Gov. Imelda Papin who will make a bid for a seat in Congress this time, and Erap's nephew Gary Estrada, who will run for Congress in Quezon province.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez and Cavite Gov. Bong Revilla will seek reelection. Herbert Bautista has yet to confirm his bid for Congress in Quezon City.

San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada has reportedly shelved his plan to seek a Senate seat. Instead, the latest report said his mother, Dr. Loi Ejercito, had been added to the list of LAMP/PMP candidates for senator. The move is said to be another Erap attempt to salvage what remains of his political clout and influence.

Jinggoy will then contest the reelection bid of Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales and of former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, which is one tricky situation.

More stars

Besides Aunor in Camarines Sur, there's Roderick Paulate who is considering the governor's post in Albay. Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid is expected to run for his third and last term.

Leading the show biz candidates for city mayor are Fernandez (Quezon City) and incumbent Makati City Vice Mayor Edu Manzano. Others in the list are Tirso Cruz III (Las Piñas), Lani Mercado (Bacoor, Cavite), and Kring-Kring Gonzales-Romualdez (Tacloban, Leyte).

Also mentioned were Alma Moreno (Parañaque) which is still unconfirmed, and Elizabeth Oropesa (Guinobatan, Albay), although she has reportedly changed her mind.

Caloocan Mayor Ray Malonzo and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos are likely to seek reelection.

Other show biz names are those of Kuh Ledesma, Jessa Zaragoza, Aiko Melendez, Diether Ocampo, Atoy Co, Nonong Martirez, King Gutierrez, Lander Vera-Perez, Andrew E., and April Boy Regino, as well as incumbent councilors Anjo Yllana, Isko Moreno, Robert Ortega, Cita Astals, Dingdong Avanzado, Anthony Castelo, and Lou Veloso.

Prodding Mikey

Presidential son Mikey Arroyo, an occasional movie star, is said to be planning to run for vice governor of Pampanga.

While Mikey still has no movie career to speak of, his new status could possibly jumpstart it, finally. There are now talks about pairing him with no less than Aunor.

It is not surprising that over-eager politicians and GMA supporters are prodding Mikey to run for public office, but it will be unfortunate for him to take this seriously. The President is well advised to discourage her son from joining the political fray at this time.

Just what is the future of show biz personalities in politics following the disgrace of Estrada?

More importantly, what is in store for the electorate if they again fall into the "popularity trap" set by show biz politicians? Have they not had enough of Estrada?

Popularity is not an evidence of good leadership, as Estrada's failed presidency has shown. A good leader, on the other hand, gains popularity for being a good leader. Popular show biz figures therefore should be more convincing in presenting the basis of their candidacy and their potential as leaders?

Serious concern

Without second-guessing the real agenda of these show biz personalities or their political supporters, voters should be encouraged to challenge their candidacies and to boldly demand from them an acceptable commitment.

AUNOR

Even as a failed leader, Estrada gave Filipinos an important political learning experience. By setting a deplorable example of leadership, he unwittingly demonstrated the weaknesses of our democratic institutions. This is why we need leaders with intelligence and conviction, leaders who will help safeguard these institutions and strengthen them.

Public service is a serious concern and certainly not just an alternative career opportunity for anybody, not even for popular movie stars. Estrada may have taken it to mean differently or even redefined it to suit his own selfish motives.

The least we can do now about our sad Erap Experience is to learn from it, so that his short-lived presidency would not entirely go to waste.

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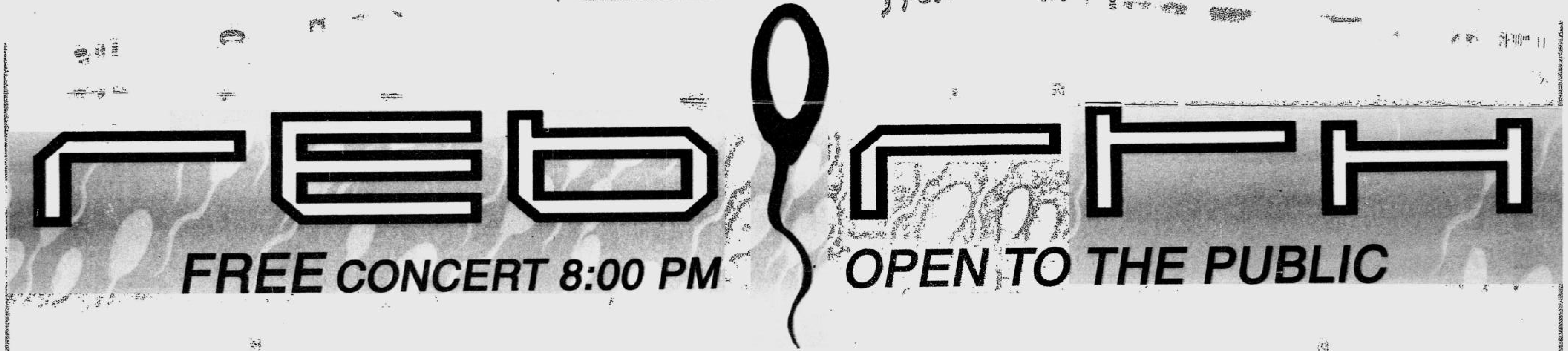
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THROUGH the years, a brand of entertainment from a versatile trio in the local industry has remained unparalleled. Simply because what it delivers is not pure music alone but also a touch of clean and intelligent humor that is attuned to the times. Such style may have been emulated in the past. But Jim Paredes, Buboy Garrovillo and Danny Javier of the Apo Hiking Society proved to be a first-rate trio to beat, then and now.

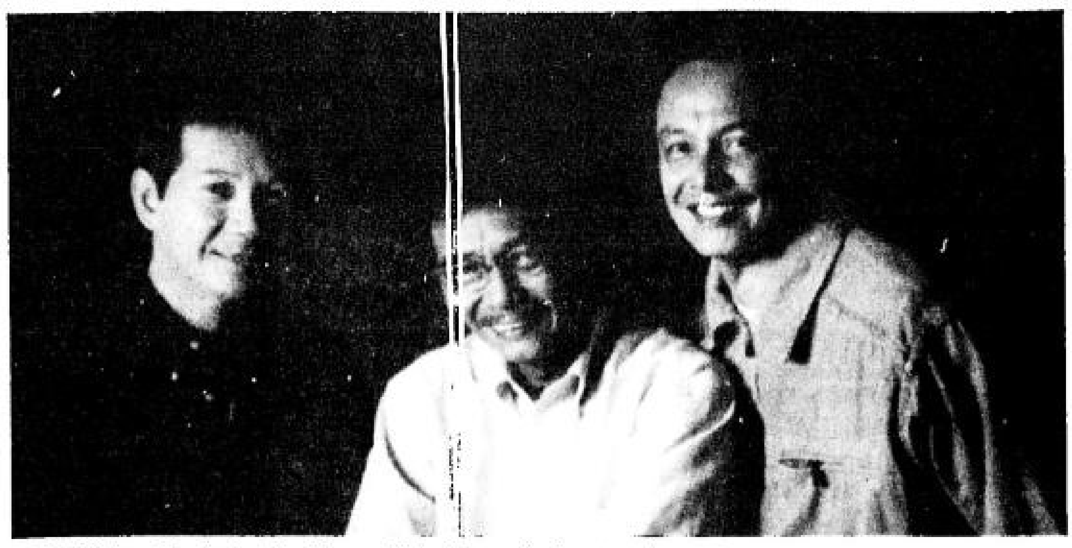
That is why in their upcoming Valentine show, "Pag-ibig Testificandum APOstecum," a complete package of laughs, romance and more is what they ought to deliver, as always and as exciting as ever.

Prior to the show is a sumptuous dinner to satisfy the palate before the final blast of humor and songs to suit the varied moods of the season. So for a Valentine date, be it with a loved one, a family or a friend, this show is a guaranteed perfect treat.

"Pag-ibig Testificandum APOstecum," another production of Maxi-Media International, happens at the Grand Plaza Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and showtime is 9 p.m.

Dinner and show tickets are at P1,800, show only tickets at P900 (plus P250 for one standard drink) and limited VIP dinner and show tickets at P2,400 are now available at all National Bookstore, Tower Records and Robinsons Ticketworld Outlets (891-5610) and at Maxi-Media (813-8999).

Ticket holders may also take advantage of Westin's Valentine room promo. Enjoy discounted maxi-rates on superior rooms from Feb. 12 to 16. For inquiries, call 832-6991 to 95.



APO Hiking Society trio. Unparalleled brand of entertainment

'Loren' on victims of terrorism tonight

THE NPA's conscription of child combatants, the impact of the Mindanao war on child evacuees and what lies ahead for a young survivor of the terrorist bombing at the LRT are the issues on focus for this month's edition of "Loren."

Hosted by Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste in the tradition of her award-winning programs "Pep Talk" and "The Inside Story," "Loren" is a special monthly documentary produced by the ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs. It airs every second Saturday of the month at 11 p.m.

Written by Roy C. Iglesias, tonight's episode, "Duyan ng Hinagpis," features former teen NPA warrior Jelyn Dayong who is now pursuing her studies as a scholar of Senator Legarda, the young children suffering from malnutrition in evacuation centers in Mindanao and the efforts of Dr. Kadil Sinolinding Jr. to arrest the problem through the senator's feeding program, as well as the young "Emmanuel" (whose real name is Buboy) as he recovers from the blast at the LRT that claimed the lives of many.

"Loren" is supported by an able staff headed by producer Pauline Gambon-Halili, associate producer Evelyn Cruz and researchers Joan Sullo and Ana Buita.

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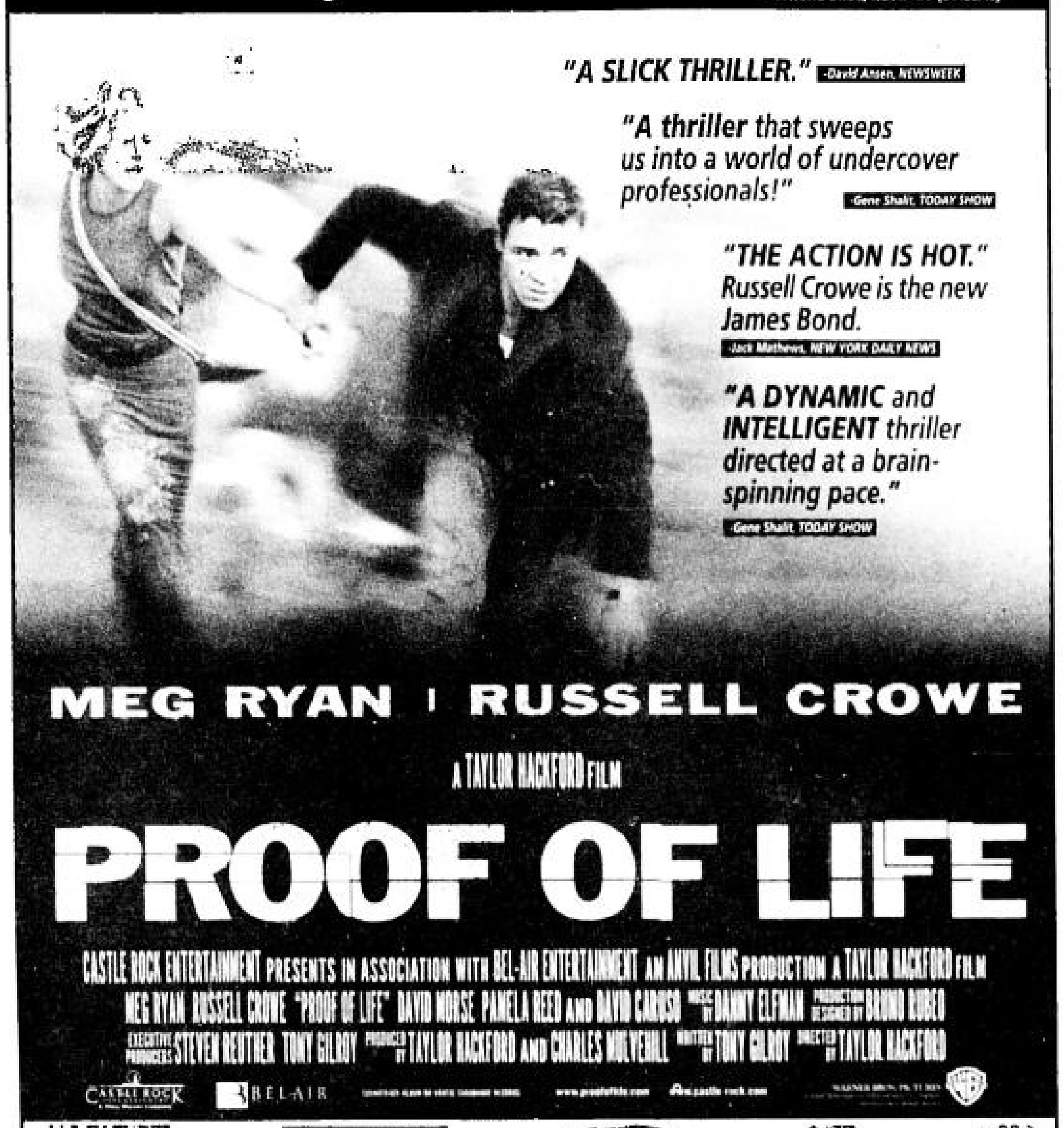

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PROOF OF LIFE - P 13 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	THE CONTENDER - P 13 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00	WHAT WOMEN WANT - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 11:20

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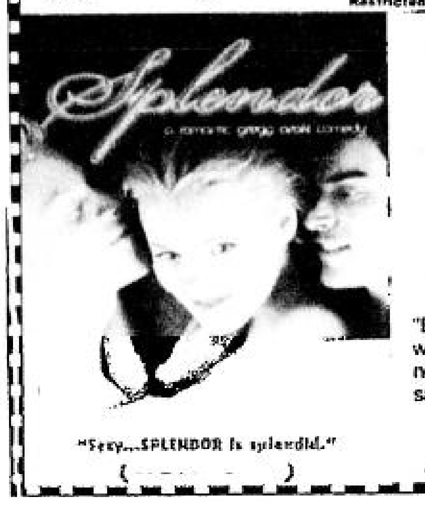

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Splendor
Kathleen Robertson Johnathon Schaech Matt Keesler
"Beverly Hills 90210" star Robertson is Veronica, a young woman who suddenly kickstarts her lovelife when she falls for novelist Abel (Shaech) and drummer Zed (Keeslar) on the same night. They decide to try an unconventional arrangement in which they all live together.
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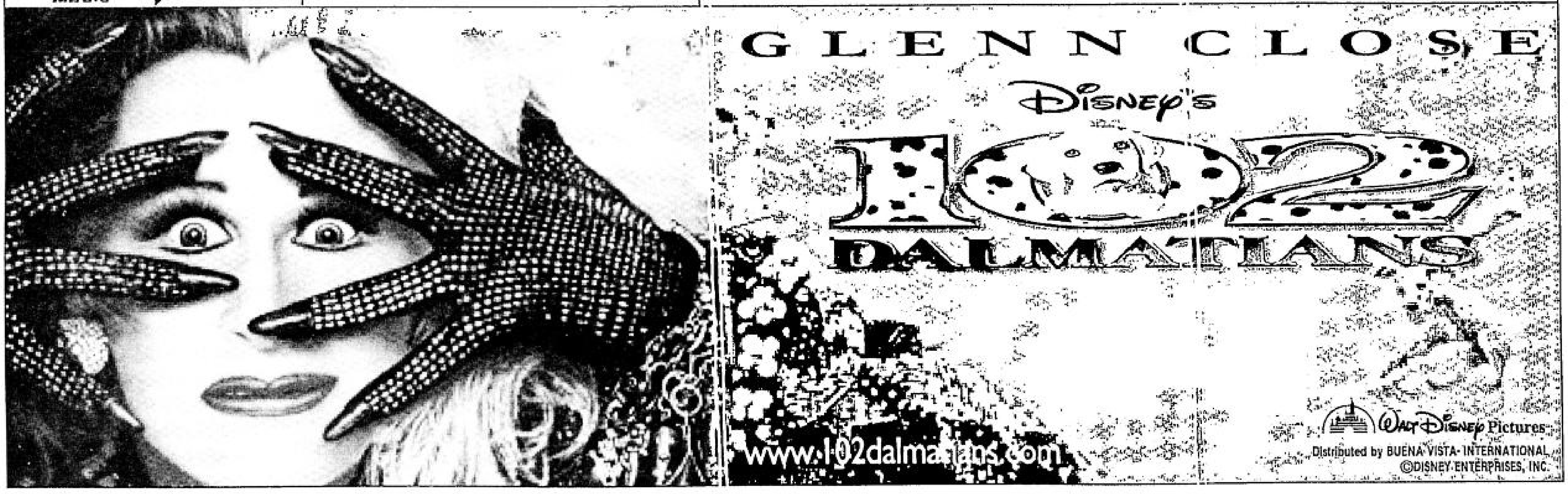
SPOT - ON FUN FOR ALL AGES OPENS IN CINEMAS FEB. 14



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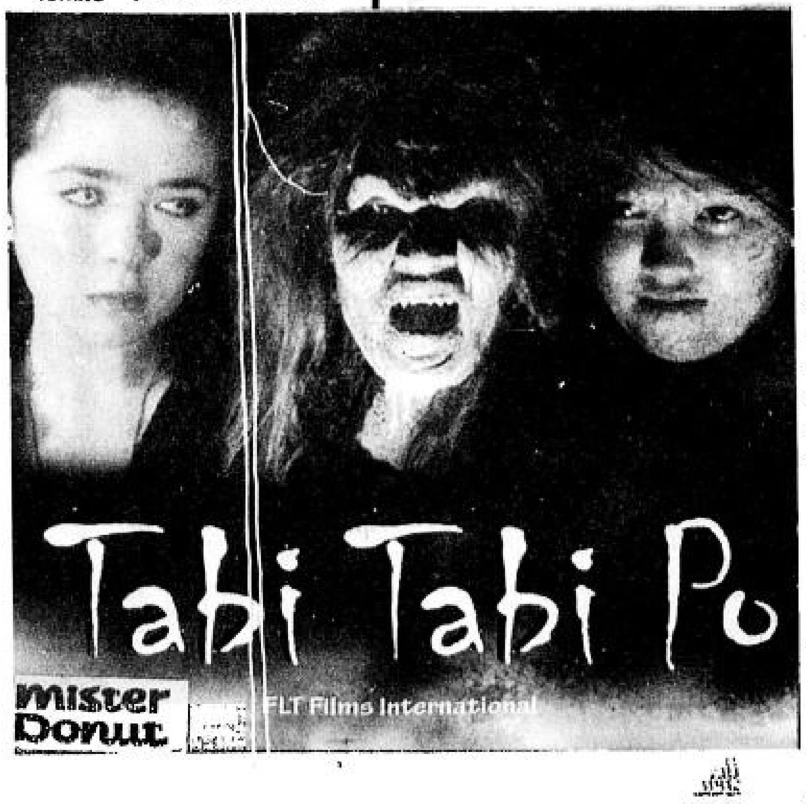

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Geneva, 747 Band in Valentine show

747 band composed of Cruz family members

GENEVA Cruz stages a special Valentine show, "State of the Heart," at the Grand Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental on Feb. 14, back to back with the 747 Band. It's an apt reunion of sorts for Geneva as she shares centerstage with her dad, uncles and cousins. No strangers to the local music industry, the Cruz clan has gained repute for its impressive lineage of musical talents.

"I think it's a novel idea to finally have a show with my family, because after all, it was my dad who influenced me a lot musically during my growing-up years. I owe my musical skills to him," Geneva says.

In the meantime, Geneva has been working on her upcoming album for Univeral Records, a collection of pop and R&B ditties penned by such noted industry heavyweights as Ito Rapadas, Noel Macanaya and British composer Allan Jewel.

CRUZ. Busy season

Geneva has also recently signed an exclusive two-year, five-picture contract with Viva Films. Despite the release of her sexy calendars earlier this year, Geneva doesn't see herself jumping in on the boldie bandwagon.

Sometime April or May, Geneva is also slated for a series of performances in four cities in Australia, including Sydney and Melbourne, as well as a provincial tour.

"State of the Heart" is produced by ALV Productions and the Mandarin Oriental. For tickets and inquiries call ALV Productions (637-7014 to 18) or Mandarin Oriental (750-8888). Dinner starts 7:30 p.m. Showtime is 9:30 p.m.

Musical treat at Ratsky's

ON FEB. 12, capture live onstage seasoned performer Richard Merk with former "Miss Saigon" artist Carla Guevarra. Performing band for the night is Vanna Vanna. Tickets at P500 and 400, inclusive of two drinks.

Feb. 13, get groovin with "Mr. Macho Gwapito" himself, Rico J. Puno, with sexy star Patricia Javier as guest. Featured band is Toy Symphony. Tickets at P500 and P400 inclusive of drinks.

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, have a feel of a romantic night when "Mr. Shades" Randy Santiago serenade you with the string quartet of Jay Cayuca. Performing band is Vanna Vanna. Tickets are at P600 and P400, inclusive of two drinks.

On Feb. 15, cap your Valentine week with The Company and dance the night away with performing band Livewire. Tickets at P500 and P400.

For reservations, call 523-8608 or 523-8639.

El DeBarge not singing

PATTI Austin performs with James DeBarge in "Reminiscing 3" tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

James DeBarge is performing in place of his brother El DeBarge who is sick and could not make it to Manila. James is a former vocalist of the group The Debarges.

The producers requested Austin to add more songs to her repertoire.

Those who may want refunds on their tickets may do so at the TicketNet box office from Feb. 16 to 20. For more information, call 911-5555 and 893-0026.

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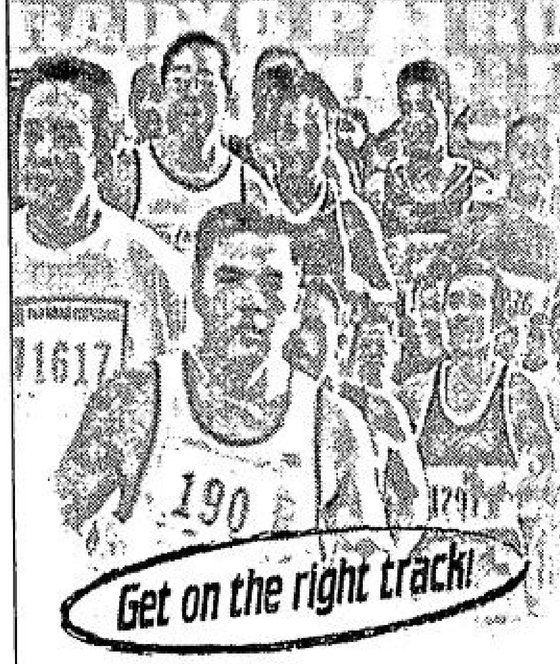

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BSP rates back to pre-crisis levels

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday cut its benchmark interest rates by another 50 basis points bringing back the rates to pre-"Juetengate" scandal levels.

Effective Monday, the BSP's overnight borrowing rate will be down to 11 percent while its overnight lending rate will be at 13.25 percent. The rates cut was the fifth for the year and the eighth since December last year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who took over the presidency on Jan. 20, has said a low interest rate environment would be the best tool to pump prime the economy.

"We expect the rates cut to result in the reduction of the capital costs of corporations and the government," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The move was widely expected by the financial markets and effectively puts the policy rates back to the pre-Oct. 13 levels.

The Monetary Board's decision to cut the overnight rates came amid mounting pressure on Buenaventura, the last surviving member of the Estrada economic team, to resign before his six-year term ends in July 2005.

The BSP raised its overnight rates by 400 basis points or four percentage points in October to defend the peso, battered by the political crisis caused when then President Estrada was accused to have received hefty bribe money from illegal gambling groups. Estrada, however, denied any wrongdoings.

The scandal led to his impeachment trial in the Senate and eventually to his ouster by a combination of public pressure, desertion by key political and military allies and a Supreme Court ruling that the position of president was vacant.

The BSP also said yesterday it did not expect much downside in the peso given that stability had returned to the market following the change in government.

The continued recovery of the local currency further boosted the resolve of monetary authorities to bring down rates, Buenaventura said.

Sources said the BSP could expect pressure from Malacañang to further bring down the rates primarily to push down the cost of government borrowings.

The 91-day treasury bill rate, the benchmark for government's borrowings, follows the movement of the BSP's overnight rates.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said his department wanted to bring down the benchmark rate to 10 percent from last Monday's average of 10.683 percent.

Allegations that ousted President Estrada had received more than P400 million in "jueteng" payoffs and P130 million in kickbacks from tobacco taxes had pulled down the peso to 51.48 to $1 on Oct. 30 and to 54.79 to $1 on Jan.18. The risk factor in the peso rose to P8 from about P2 to P4.

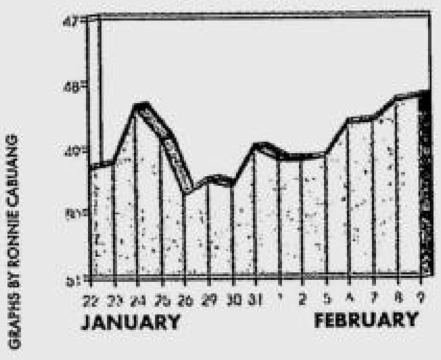
Buenaventura said the peso should maintain only P3 to P4 difference over the Thai baht. Currently, the peso is trading at about P6 over the baht.

"The peso is stronger now and is trading below P50. However, it has yet to settle at a more stable level," the President said earlier. *With a report from Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

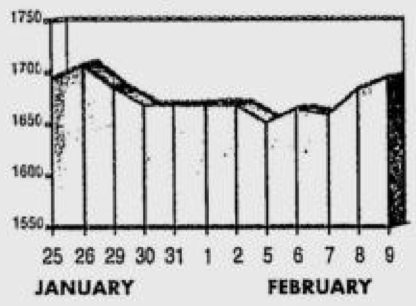
₱48.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 9, 2001

¥116.58 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 116.58 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 9, 2001

GOLD:$260.10/260.60
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 9, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end higher

SHARES yesterday finished higher as investors welcomed the government's promise to support a power sector reform bill pending in Congress, traders said.

A 0.50-percentage point cut in the central bank overnight rates also spurred demand for select issues in the market, traders added.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 12.15 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,695.59, adding to a 1.5-percent gain Thursday.

Manila Electric "B" was among the most active stocks, up P2.50 to P64.5 on talk the government may soon grant the power distributor's petition for a 30-centavo per kilowatt-hour power rate increase, which was filed last April. The company needs to raise power rates to improve its profitability.

Investors also accumulated Manila Electric shares and other power stocks after the government withdrew its earlier decision to junk a power sector reform bill currently pending in Congress, traders said.

"All power related stocks benefited from the government's decision," said Wise Securities economist Jose Vistan. "Investors will tend to favor sectors the new administration promises to support. It's getting back to fundamentals."

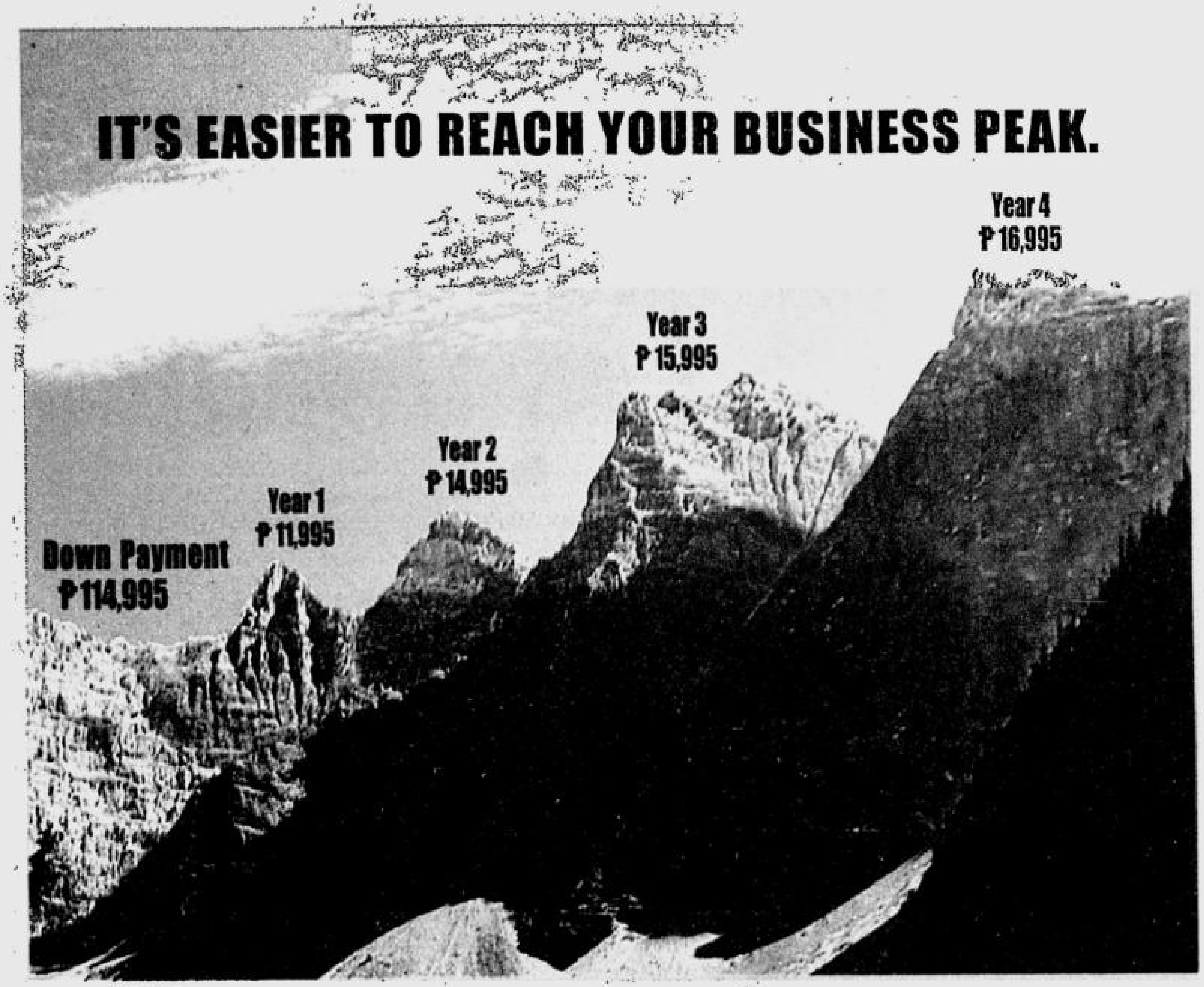
He said the index could rise to 1800 this quarter or next. *AP*

SMC to announce profits

SAN Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage firm, is due to announce 2000 full-year results on Monday, at a news conference set for 9:00 a.m.

The company is expected to record a net income of P6.9 billion, compared to the previous year's P6.02 billion, largely due to hefty contributions from its unit La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

La Tondeña had reported its net income grew 34 percent from a year ago to P1.35 billion in 2000, with record volume growth in its water, juice, and hard liquor products. *Reuters*



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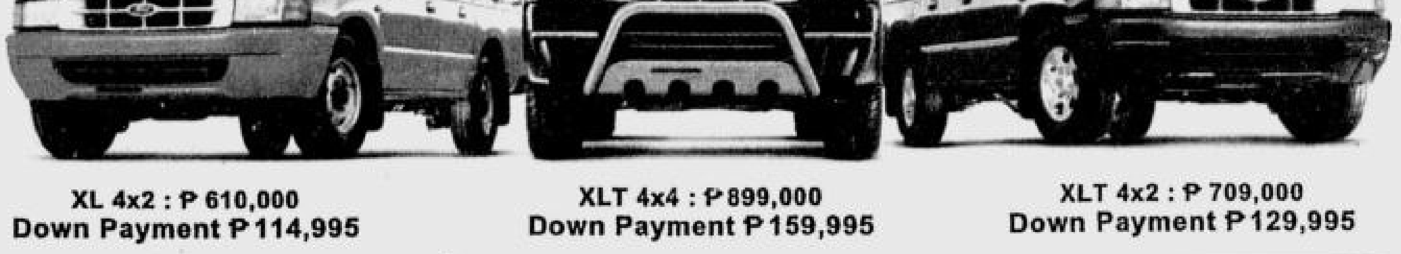

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When the toilet is gone

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S possible that PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro R. Mendoza has the right middle name or, depending on where you stand, the wrong one. The "R" in Mendoza's name, his mother's surname, happens to be "Ramos." My, how it rings a bell!

Banish the thought because Mendoza has no relations to you-know-who, although he wouldn't mind saying himself—all right, you win, here it is—that our dear Kuya Eddie had a hand in guiding his young career in the police force.

The Kuya, as you know, is being criticized for his "men" in high places. Again! But Mendoza was not his nominee. All right, choice! Mendoza confessed to me that he led the police force's mini-uprising against the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

In our latest version of a revolution, otherwise known by cute names like "Edsa II" or "People Power II," Mendoza led some 400 or so PNP men in controlling the PNP seat of power in Camp Crame. Of course, that's how he got the reward . . . este, job.

* * *

PEOPLE close to Kuya Eddie, nevertheless, swear he also thinks highly of Mendoza. Well, stocky and squared jaw, Mendoza is clearly no pushover. Look, he didn't whine when he was stepped over by his juniors in becoming PNP chief three times in a row.

He's also well-educated. He has a masters degree in public administration from UP—as a university scholar at that. But, make no mistake, the man is just about as desk bound as a seaman. He made the rounds as a field man all the way to Mindanao.

So why did Mendoza got a lot of flak from two anti-crime NGOs? Even before Mendoza could sit at the chief's desk, with or without a chair, they called for the cute administration of Gloriaetta to recall his appointment. Maybe wrong after-shave or what!

Mendoza did not confess to me his after-shave brand. He just said that it always takes time for the new guy to earn the trust of anti-crime NGOs. That's why he made the first move. He met with them to clear up things. So who said cops have lousy PR?

* * *

ANOTHER flak-friendly figure in the new but cute administration of Gloriaetta is the president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, none other than Winston Garcia.

Garcia comes from that separate republic in the Visayas. Yes, Cebu! There he served in the provincial board, then decided to rest from politics. There were two others in his family who ran for public office. He thought he had to sacrifice.

Well, the soft-spoken Garcia, who in his younger days wanted to become a priest, also wanted to take the constitutional ban on political dynasty a lot more seriously than most other politicos. Like the conjugal one in Makati, for instance.

Anyway, even before he could use the toilet in the luxurious GSIS building at the reclaimed area along Roxas Boulevard, the flak-friendly Garcia already got a lot of flak for his plan regarding the toilet. In the GSIS, the good toilet is gone.

* * *

PEOPLE who come to GSIS offices, Garcia noted, are made to wait. They are also made to sit on hard plastic chairs. Not without a tinge of disgust, he asked how come GSIS officers have soft comfortable chairs. Yeah, how come? It's not even their money.

The real owners of GSIS are the members. They foot the bills. Garcia said they must use good facilities when they come over to transact business. They have all the right to decent toilets. And the toilets smell worse than my feet after I take off my shoes.

So Garcia wants to invest a little on the toilets and on the lobby. Immediately, he was attacked for angling for kickbacks from those miniscule projects. Look, guys, the GSIS has almost P200 billion in resources. Toilets do not tempt rich guys like Garcia.

He said he wants to give back GSIS to its members. For instance, GSIS earns more from loans to members, which even have high collection rates, than from corporate loans. He is setting aside more funds for member loans. Well, he's an ex-seminarian.

* * *

NOW, one of the leading candidates for the top post at the DENR, Rep. Heherson Alvarez, may have done more for environmental protection than all the political dynasties, but he is also getting . . . well, this time, just a bit of flak.

The flak, I heard, was coming from some NGOs that are pushing for their own candidates for the DENR position. Alvarez is accused of being a *trapo*. And, believe me, Alvarez can get pretty agitated with that label. He said he is anything but that.

Well, he may be a "trapo" to some people probably because he is not militant enough against big business, which is the traditional enemy of environmental groups. All right, the fanatical groups. You know, the tree-huggers.

Indeed, Alvarez leans more toward market solutions to environmental problems. To him, whatever we do is certain to affect the environment. Whoever affects the environment must then be made to pay. And to them, that's already a *trapo*.

East Asia gives up Cebu unit to settle ₱3B in loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUBLICLY listed East Asia Power Resources Corp. is giving up one of its wholly owned subsidiaries in favor of the Texas-based El Paso power group to settle P3 billion worth of debts.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, East Asia Power said it had entered into an debt-to-asset swap deal to wipe out its debts to its biggest shareholder, EL Paso Philippines Energy Co. Inc., the local unit of Texas-based El Paso power group.

East Asia Power said it was giving up full control of Cebu-based subsidiary East Asia Utilities Corp. in favor of El Paso.

Although El Paso controls some stake in East Asia itself, the move is seen either as a strategy to acquire majority control of the holding firm by consolidating all its power interests or to embark on wholly owned ventures.

El Paso is the beneficial owner of 50 percent of the issued and outstanding stock of EPHE Philippines Holdings Co. Inc., which in turn owns 91.7 percent of East Asia Power Resources.

East Asia Power's subsidiary East Asia Utilities owns 100 percent of Cebu Private Power.

East Asia Utilities owes El Paso about P2.69 billion while East Asia Power itself owes it around P230 million.

Part of the proceeds from the loan to East Asia Utilities was used to finance the construction and development of the power generating plant owned by Cebu Private Power.

The East Asia group had planned to settle the debts through a new loan to be syndicated by a group of banks tapped by East Asia Utilities and Cebu Private Power with East Asia Resources as guarantor.

"But due to economic and political circumstances, the banks were not able to make the funds available prompting East Asia Utilities and Cebu Private Power to terminate the agreement," East Asia representative Ildebrando Ambrosio said.

El Paso agreed to offset its loans to the three companies with the East Asia group's assets.

PCCI Securities Brokers Corp. head of research Gonzalo Bongolan said the deal could mean an additional equity exposure in the East Asia group by El Paso.

"It's probably okay for them because of the improving outlook in the power sector. It will mean a bigger stake for them in a sector that will benefit from an impending restructuring without additional cash out."

Bongolan noted that in the past few days, there has been keen market interest on power-related issues because of the Macapagal administration's pronouncement that it would work for the passage of the Omnibus Power Bill within this Congress.

But Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the move could also mean that the Texas-based group wanted to acquire businesses separate from East Asia which El Paso could fully control.

Mabuhay posts ₱91M in profit

By Anthony O. Alcantara

SUBIC BAY, Olongapo—Mabuhay Philippines Satellite Corp. has reported a financial turnaround last year posting a profit of P91 million from a net loss of P192 million in 1999.

Mabuhay is a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. It had been losing since it launched its Agila 2 satellite in August 1997.

In a press conference here yesterday, Mabuhay president Gabriel Pimentel said the company also generated last year P1.6 billion.

"This is because of the huge demand for Internet last year. We expect revenues to increase this year by 10 percent and our net income to increase to P140 million given this trend," said the official.

The company posted net losses of P344 million and P192 million in 1998 and 1999, respectively.

However, with the certification it received from the US Federal Communications Commission, Pimentel said the company could expect business to grow more rapidly and it could now charge higher rates for the use of its satellite.

"This breakthrough caps an impressive performance of Mabuhay last year," said Pimentel. "The company has moved into a profitable position and is enjoying strong demand for its transponders from a wide range of international customers."

The FCC certification indicates that the Agila 2 satellite has fully complied with the commission's technical requirements. It will allow US-owned and -operated stations in Hawaii to access to Agila 2.

PLANTERSBANK EXPERIENCE

Bank exec says lending to SMEs can be profitable

LENDING to small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs) can be a profitable venture to any bank committed to this sector of the economy, according to Planters Development Bank chair and CEO Jesus Tambunting.

In a speech during the Asian Development Bank forum on poverty, Tambunting said that if handled properly, SME lending could bring more revenues to any bank.

However, Tambunting said that despite their significant contributions to income and employment generation, banks usually avoid lending to SMEs because "they are considered risky, costly and difficult to handle."

He noted that SMEs in the Philippines accounted for about 90 percent of the total number of business firms and contributed about 25 percent to the gross national product.

He said Plantersbank's 40 years of banking experience showed how profitable lending to SMEs could be.

"Forced by circumstances to cater to SMEs in the beginning, the bank grew and prospered by gradually building its institutional capabilities in working with aspiring entrepreneurs, many of them hardly had any experience in dealing with formal lending institutions," he said.

From an asset base of P6 million in 1972, Tambunting noted that Plantersbank's assets had expanded to more than P20 billion as of end-2000, which gave it enough resources to compete even with the top 20 commercial banks in the country.

Its involvement in SMEs gained recognition from various institutions worldwide and attracted foreign financial institutions to invest in the bank. Plantersbank is 40-percent owned by the Netherlands Development Finance Co., the Asian Development Bank and the International Finance Corp.

Part of Plantersbank's formula for success is its focus and commitment to SMEs, Tambunting said.

"Whereas most banks merely have an SME lending desk, at Plantersbank, the entire organization is focused on SMEs. SMEs are our be-all and end-all. This allowed us to adapt our organization, processes, products and services to the dynamics of our market," he said.

Also, the bank is profit-driven and lending to SMEs is viewed as a business opportunity.

"We charge higher interest rates to cover the higher overhead and supervision costs of lending to smaller accounts. In general, our market accepted the higher rates because of the value-added services we provided on top of the financing," he said.

"We made extensive use of available rediscounting facilities and inexpensive funds provided by the government and multilateral funding agencies to keep our interest cost at competitive levels and to match the long-term financial needs of our SME clients," he said.

Other strategies cited by Tambunting were:

- The bank managed credit risks by diversifying the mix of its loan portfolio to various industries and account sizes as well as by using surrogate indicators whenever the borrower's accounting records proved tedious and difficult to reconstruct;
- The bank viewed relationship with clients as a long-term partnership and focused on elements that built value not just for shareholders but also for clients; and
- The bank kept its operations simple, based on a customer-oriented culture. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Equitable PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

The **ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION** of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on an "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 247229/280 m2/comm'l. vacant lot	Lot 7, Sub-blk. 11, Pres. Quirino cor. Leveriza, Malate, Manila	P 9,800,000
2) 39549-57/162.35 to 164.14 m2/res./condo.	Sta. Ana Villas, #2215 Pedro Gil St., Sta. Ana, Manila	From 4,545,800 to 4,595,920
3) 68969/61.62 m2/res. condo.	3/F Unit 316, Cityland Condominium 8-Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	2,156,700
4) 9919-R/287 m2/res. w/ impvts.	288 Santolan Road, West Crame, San Juan, Metro Manila	8,994,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-137698-99/33,109 & 10,000 m2/res./agri.	Bo. Iponan, Cagayan de Oro City	7,163,550
III. CHATTELS		
Surface Grinders, EDM CNC Machine, Horizontal Band Saw, Drill Grinder, Milling Machine, Grinding Machines, Optical Measurement Inspection System, Air Compressor, Wire Cut CNC Machine	Equitable PCI Bank, EPZA Branch, Rosario, Cavite	9,164,000

Complete description/specifications of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties & Chattels — MS. LITA O. VALENCIA/VP/MAR M. RIPA/AO/GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/ KAREN U. RESARI/AO/TON-TON P. MALABUYO -Tel. Nos. 817-8909/840-7665/817-2822/ 840-7644/894-1910/840-7920

Bidding will be held on February 27, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in the sealed bid. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

DISCLOSURES

LAWYER Mariano Celis II was elected corporate secretary of **Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.** while Amalia Dionisio was named the company's assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. will have its company briefing on its fourth quarter (2000) financial results on Feb. 16, 2 p.m.

* * *

ALFONSO Cruz resigned from the board of **Reynolds Philippines Corp.** He was elected on Sept. 24, 1999.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Manulife Financial Corp.** approved the payment of a quarterly dividend of Cdn$0.12 per common share for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 2000, payable on March 19 to shareholders of record as of Feb. 21, 2001 (Toronto time). ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

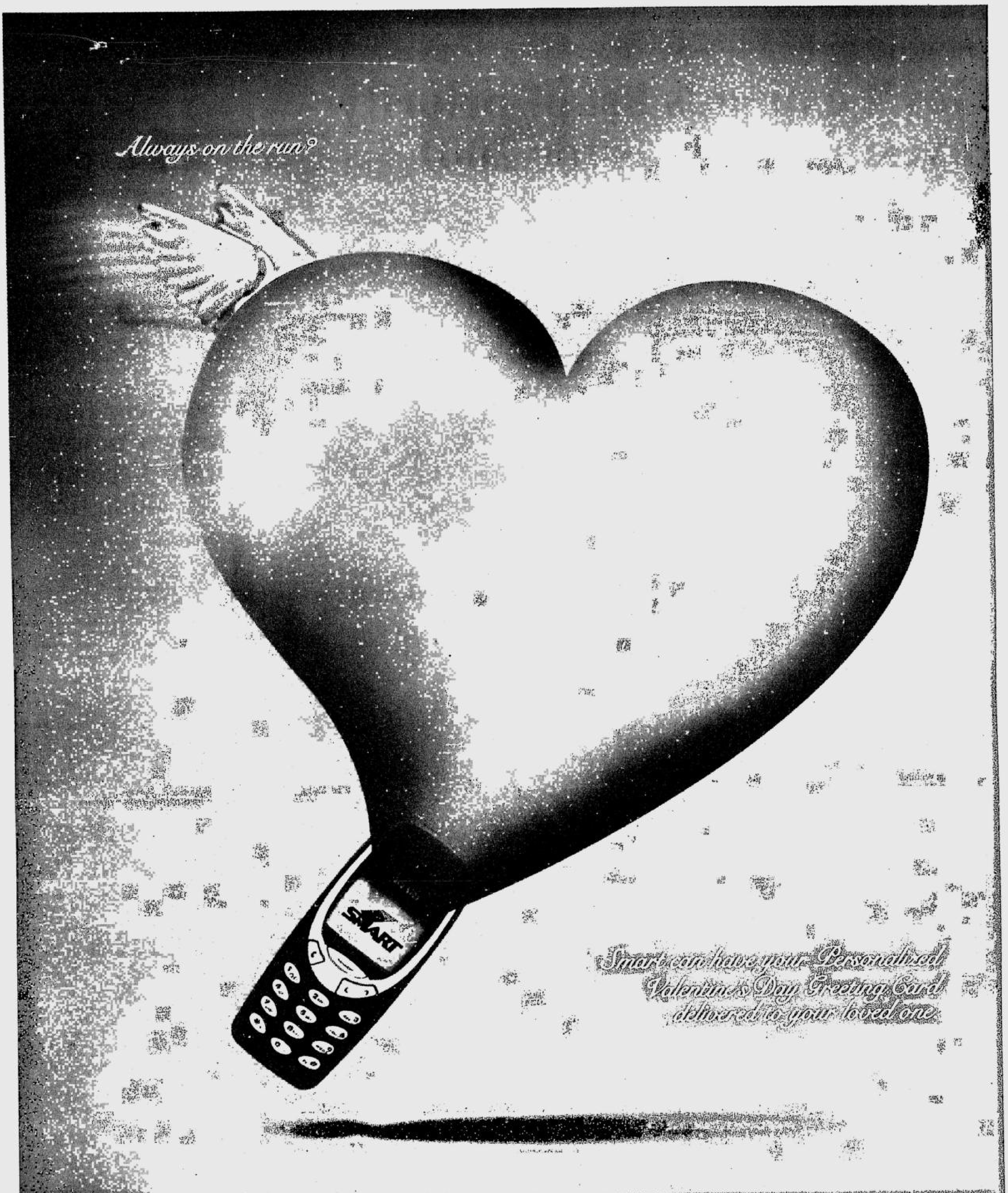
(As of Friday, February 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7	7.2	7	7.2	23,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	121	121	120	120	900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	71	71	70	70	26,700
China Banking Corp.	750	750	700	700	530
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54	54	53.5	54	399,000
First E-Bank Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	234	234	232	233	69,110
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	34	34.5	538,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.68	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1330	1295	1300	4,320
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1150	1120	1150	6,840
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	48	48.5	48	48.5	25,800
Diversified Fin. Network	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	2,910,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	715	705	710	570
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	19,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	30,000
Piltel	0.87	0.89	0.87	0.89	1,040,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	910	910	900	900	139,300
Ivantage Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	309,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0875	0.09	0.08	0.0825	640,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	54	56.5	54	56	67,100
Manila Electric Co. B	62.5	65	62	64.5	2,308,700
Petron Corp.	1.96	2.02	1.96	1.98	17,182,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1	1	1	1	410,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.36	2,710,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.51	0.57	0.51	0.57	190,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	140,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.22	310,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.54	1,320,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	1,700,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.5	2.75	2.5	2.75	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	142,000
La Tondena DistillersInc.	39	39.5	38.5	38.5	514,200
Pancake House, Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,000
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.08	2,556,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	51.5	51	51.5	227,200
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	62.5	63.5	1,051,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.56	70,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ayala Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	1,560,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.2	910,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	2,481,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12	12.5	2,200
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.08	520,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.235	2,070,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	495,500
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	350,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	2,442,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.57	1,440,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.048	0.048	0.046	0.046	2,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.36	1.28	1.34	4,797,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.75	24.25	23.5	24	1,833,700
Forum Pacific Inc	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	430,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	110,000
Ionics Inc.	15.25	15.25	15	15	231,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	530,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	25,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.95	1.02	0.95	0.98	19,400,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.67	4,120,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.83	0.88	0.83	0.85	9,510,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.43	2,020,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	100,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	6,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3,000
Music Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	331,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	5,080,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	1,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	70,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	357,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	900,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.71	0.65	0.7	20,660,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.67	0.6	0.67	8,300,000
Manila Jockey Club	15.5	20	15.5	20	32,700
Philippine Racing Club	4	4.1	4	4	194,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	48	48.5	48	48	574,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	535	535	535	535	150
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	236,000
Jollibee Warrants	11	11	10.75	10.75	225,400
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0034	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	519,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	11	11	11	11	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,600
PLDT (10% PREF) SERIES Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,200
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6,659,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	7,480,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.45	14,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.85	3	2.85	2.95	17,546,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	4,350,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	65,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	7	6.8	6.9	20,810,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,200,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	45,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.45	3.5	3.2	3.5	51,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	217,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	2,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	420,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.033	0.033	0.03	0.03	22,700,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.019	45,900,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	110,000

CURRENCIES

Feb. 9, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.088732	1.000000	48.2840
Japan	Yen	0.009337	0.008576	0.4141
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572999	1.444800	69.7607
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139588	0.128212	6.1906
Switzerland	Franc	0.651545	0.598444	28.8953
Canada	Dollar	0.721445	0.662647	31.9952
Singapore	Dollar	0.623022	0.572246	27.6303
Australia	Dollar	0.637484	0.585529	28.2717
Bahrain	Dinar	2.888036	2.652661	128.0811
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290297	0.266638	12.8743
Brunei	Dollar	0.621068	0.570451	27.5437
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000104	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025587	0.023502	1.1348
UAE	Dirham	0.296455	0.272294	13.1474
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000791	0.0382
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.918500	44.3489
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.469622	22.6752
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140024	6.7609
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416797	20.1246
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066750	3.2230
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022769	1.0994
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000474	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168167	0.154461	7.4580
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004581	0.2212
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00552	0.2665
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022769	1.0994
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.166254	56.3114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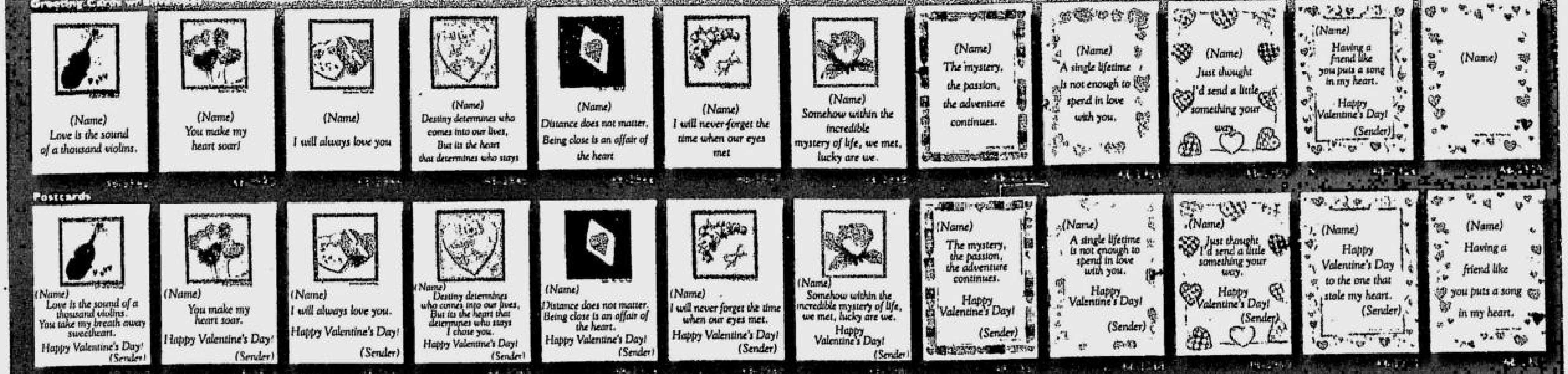
Smart can have your Personalized Valentine's Day Greeting Card delivered to your loved one.

Greeting Cards w/ Envelopes



(Name)
Love is the sound
of a thousand violins.

(Name)
You make my
heart soar!

(Name)
I will always love you

(Name)
Destiny determines who
comes into our lives,
But its the heart
that determines who stays

(Name)
Distance does not matter,
Being close is an affair of
the heart

(Name)
I will never forget the
time when our eyes
met

(Name)
Somehow within the
incredible
mystery of life, we met,
lucky are we.

(Name)
The mystery,
the passion,
the adventure
continues.

(Name)
A single lifetime
is not enough to
spend in love
with you.

(Name)
Just thought
I'd send a little
something your
way.

(Name)
Having a
friend like
you puts a song
in my heart.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)

Postcards

(Name)
Love is the sound of a
thousand violins.
You take my breath away
sweetheart.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
You make my
heart soar.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
I will always love you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Destiny determines
who comes into our lives,
But its the heart that
determines who stays
I chose you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Distance does not matter.
Being close is an affair of
the heart.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
I will never forget the time
when our eyes met.
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Somehow within the
incredible mystery of life,
we met, lucky are we.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
The mystery,
the passion,
the adventure
continues.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
A single lifetime
is not enough to
spend in love
with you.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Just thought
I'd send a little
something your
way.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
(Sender)

(Name)
Happy
Valentine's Day
to the one that
stole my heart.
(Sender)

(Name)
Having a
friend like
you puts a song
in my heart.

With SMART Gold's Personalized Greeting Cards, you can send your most heartfelt thoughts to your loved ones – no matter the distance.

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   Q.C.#MARLON YU#I LOVE YOU.
   Note: The whole message should be limited to 160 characters.
2. Send to 230 and wait for confirmation.

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   To view all available cards, log on to www.smart.com.ph.

SHOW BIZ IN

Gov't expands list of priority investment areas for 2001

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE entertainment industry will finally get its coveted fiscal incentives from the Board of Investments this year even though its chief backer, former President Estrada, was booted out of power.

The movie industry is one of the four new investment areas to be included in the BOI's investment priorities plan, an annual listing of preferred business sectors that the government wants to develop. Other new sectors on the proposed 2001 IPP are agri-business parks, coco-based oleochemical surfactants and iodized salts.

The BOI said producers of television programs, motion pictures (including documentary films) and musical recordings would get incentives such as income tax breaks of up to six years normally given to producers of consumer products and basic commodities.

The local entertainment industry has long been pleading with the government to classify it as a service sector with export potential worthy of government support instead of just as an amusement business good only for tax revenue generation.

It was only during the term of Estrada, a former actor, that the government has relented to the entertainment industry's pleadings. Estrada promised to give the industry fiscal incentives after movie producers led an advertising boycott of the INQUIRER which has been critical of his administration.

Apart from the new additions, the BOI has further enhanced the scope of five industry sectors to spur more investments in these areas. These are information technology, to include information and communication technology (ICT) services; environmental projects, to include clean-up activities, waste treatment facilities, waste handling and sewerage for mining, industrial and municipal governments; pipeline operators for petroleum, natural gas and petrochemicals, and automotive assembly and parts manufacturing.

The BOI is confident these changes would pull in more investors into the country particularly in the IT sector which generated P3 billion in new investments since its inclusion in the IPP last year.

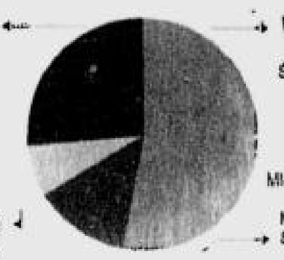
This year's IPP retained the previous year's industry clustering strategy and regional approach in determining which industries should be promoted in specific areas outside Metro Manila.

The first draft of the 2001 IPP was presented to a public hearing held simultaneously yesterday in Manila, Cebu and Davao.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

On-going private-public infrastructure projects* (2001, in million US$)



Power projects	$ 3,608
Iljan natural gas	1,600
San Roque multi-purpose	780
Casecnan multi-purpose	470
San Pascual cogeneration	400
Mindanao coal-fired	200
Bakun A/B & C hydro	82
Mindanao II geothermal	72
Bacman geothermal	33

Others	$ 930
NAIA terminal 3	440
Pabahay sa Riles	400
Database Infra & IT system	75
Samal Island resort	15

Water & sewerage	$ 7,120
MWSS privatization	120
Subic water & sewerage	7,000

Roads	$ 1,819
MRT 3	655
Mla-N.Luzon expressway	460
M. Mla. Skyway	381
Mla-Cavite expressway	250
S. Tagalog arterial road	73

*National government projects which are under the BOT, BLO, BOO, BTO, JV and concession schemes and which are under or for construction as of March 2000

Source: Department of Budget and Management

The total estimated cost of on-going private-government projects reached $ 13.5 billion. Projects under the build-operate-transfer scheme include the NAIA-3 terminal and all power plant projects except the Bacman geothermal which is under the build-transfer-own scheme along with the arterial road project. Joint venture agreements include the Skyway, the two expressways, Samal Island resort and the 'Pabahay sa Riles'.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Napocor plans bigger power rate discount for ailing firms

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has applied for an additional 30-centavo per kilowatt-hour discount on its selling rates to industries directly connected to its system.

In a petition filed with the Energy Regulatory Board, the state-owned Napocor said it wanted to give the additional discount, on top of the 45-centavo it gave earlier, to help distressed companies connected to its system nationwide.

The state-run power firm has been implementing a discount program for ailing and power-intensive industries to help them cope with the effects of the economic slowdown.

At the same time, Napocor hopes to boost its sales with the program.

Dubbed as the Estrada Recovery Assistance Program (Erap), industries are given discounts on their power purchases from Napocor. The amount of discounts depends on the power consumption of the companies.

A total of 1,912 companies within the franchise area of Manila Electric Co. availed themselves of the Napocor program last year. Six large companies, including Bacnotan Cement Corp. Republic Cement and Fortune Cement, also enjoyed Napocor's discounted rates during the period. The discounts extended last year amounted to P88 million.

Industries have complained that the country has the second highest cost of electricity, second only to Japan.

Companies that were allowed to avail themselves of the program include those that reduced operations or are just restarting operations.

Firms operating at full capacity are given a 15-percent discount or as much as 30 centavos per kwh on their power purchases.

"This is a welcome respite for power-intensive industries, especially to exporters such as the electronics and garments industry. However, it would be more appropriate if industries could have a permanent incentive and discount program for their power purchases," said Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis in an interview yesterday.

GOINGS-ON

Keppel Marine's profit up

KEPPEL Philippines Marine achieved significantly higher earnings in 2000. Although revenue declined slightly to P729 million, pre-tax profit and attributable profit rose 86 percent and 97 percent to P109 million and P83 million respectively.

The good performance was due to much higher contributions from associate Subic Shipyard and Engineering, which benefited from an increase in the repair of foreign vessels. The previous year's results were also affected by a substantial provision for the diminution in value of investment in Keppel Fels Energy Manila.

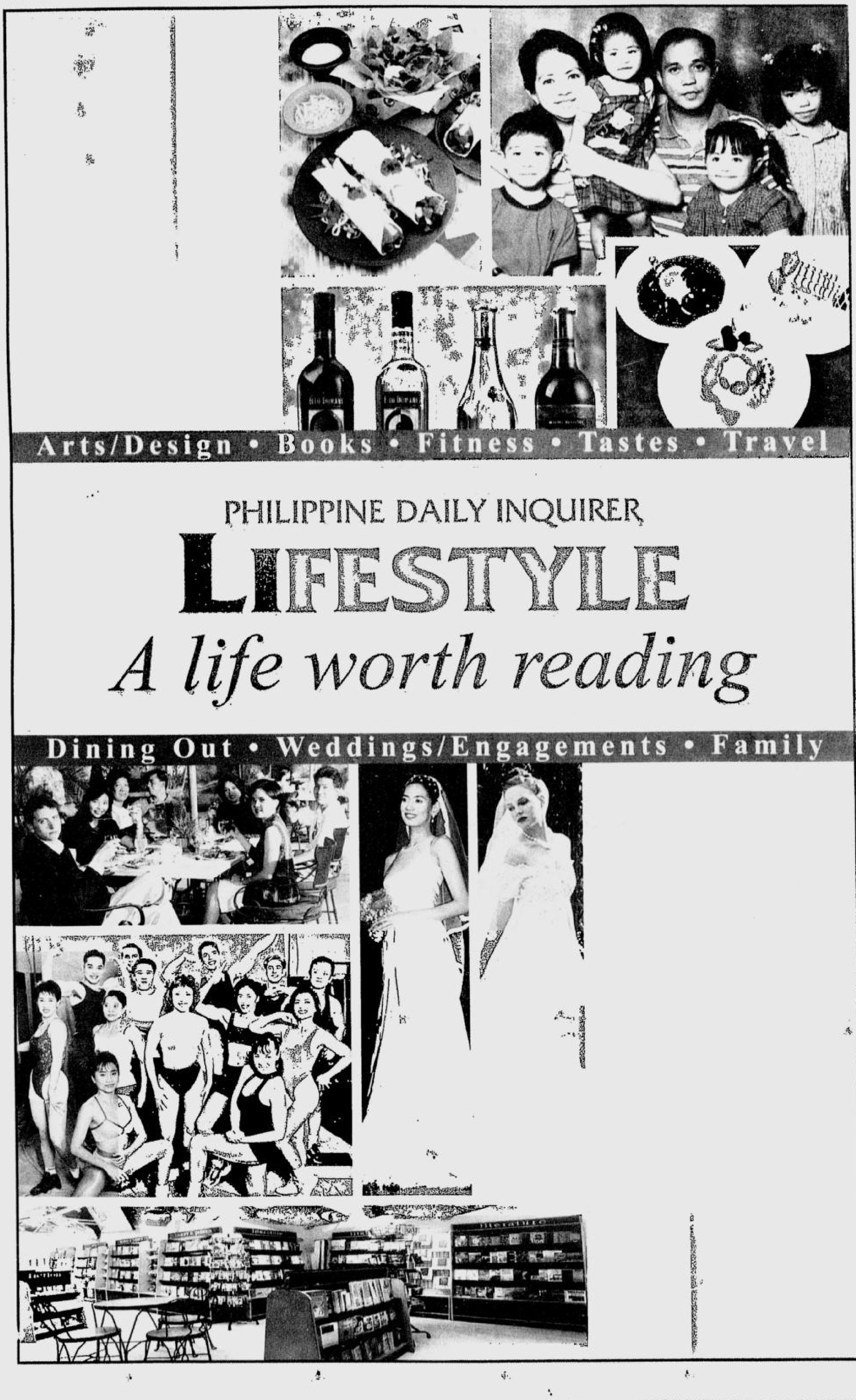
The domestic ship repair sector will take time to recover, depending on the economic situation in the Philippines. Prospects for the repair of foreign vessels, however, are good. Overall, the company expects its performance to improve in the current year.

Landbank taps Web to market agri products

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines recently ventured into Web marketing to enable small farmers' cooperatives and entrepreneurs assisted by the bank to expand the reach of their products.

This alternative marketing strategy became effective after the bank forged a partnership agreement with b2bpricenow.com, a private company engaged in electronic commerce. The agreement enables Landbank-assisted cooperatives to register their products in b2bpricenow.com, a website created for trading and selling of agricultural products and construction supplies.

Landbank president and CEO Gary B. Teves said this online marketing will do away with middlemen as it allows farmers and entrepreneurs to engage in direct selling. He added that Net surfers can register, canvass and inquire on current prices of various products. Traders, on the other hand, can transact their businesses, close deals and remit payment online.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GIR slipped to $14.4B last month, BSP reports

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves fell to $14.39 billion at the end of January from $15.02 billion in December, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

GIR represents the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank, which are primarily US dollars as well as gold, bank investments abroad and holdings of special drawing rights.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country's reserves fell because of debt payments by state-owned firms like the National Power Corp. and as banks closed dollar-swap deals. He said the current level could finance 4.3 months worth of imports.

Buenaventura said the central bank did not use its reserves to defend the peso against the dollar as the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada reached a climax in the first two weeks of January.

The local currency appreciated against the US dollar and had hit a stable range since Estrada was ousted by a peaceful revolt on Jan. 20.

The peso rose for a sixth straight day yesterday, closing at 48.20, as overseas investors returned to the local stock market on optimism President Macapagal-Arroyo would help boost growth.

Buenaventura said he expected the country's reserves to dwindle some more as the BSP was set to pay off $400 million in loans this month.

The central bank governor earlier said he preferred a GIR level of $16 billion.

Buenaventura has expressed optimism foreign direct investments, portfolio inflows and remittance from overseas contract workers will augment the country's reserves.

"There is no GIR target yet for this year, but we will come up with a number as we go into a post-monitoring program with the IMF (International Monetary Fund). We could aim for about $16 billion," he said.

MINI STOP

7-Eleven rival opens first store

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOKONGWEI family's Robinsons Retail Group yesterday opened the first outlet of a convenience-store chain it formed to dislodge market leader 7-Eleven.

Called "Mini Stop," Robinsons Retail's latest venture is a P400-million tie-up with Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. and Mini Stop Corp. Ltd. It opened its first store at the Edsa-Shaw station of Metro Rail Transit Corp. Ltd.

"Our goal is to be the best and most successful chain within 10 years," Frederick Go, executive vice president of Robinsons Convenience Store Inc., told reporters.

Go said Robinsons Retail would put up between 500 and 1,000 outlets in the next three to five years, nearly double 7-Eleven's target.

Robinsons Retail has a 56-percent share in Mini Stop. Mitsubishi has 40 percent while Mini Stop owns the remaining 4 percent.

"Our selling point is Mini Stop's unique combo-store format," Go said.

He explained that unlike other convenience stores, Mini Stop also offered fast-food services.

"Customers can enjoy the convenience of eating freshly prepared fast food in the store's dine-in area," he said.

The concept was borrowed from Japan, where Mini Stop has over 1,000 outlets. It also has hundreds of stores in South Korea. Mini Stop reported annual sales of $2 billion last year.

The Philippines is the only other country to have Mini Stop stores.

"We want Mini Stop to be seen as the friendly neighborhood store, where busy people can avail of the products and services they need in a hurry," RCSI general manager Wilfredo Camarillo said.

This, he said, was why his group planned to set up a utility bill payment service in their stores within the year. Customers will be able to pay their electricity, water or phone bills through Mini Stop stores.

Apart from consumers, the group also plans to attract local entrepreneurs with "attractive franchising schemes."

"Franchisees can shoulder all expenses or we can help them in financing," Go said. "We will be offering franchises to local investors in the next few months."

Camarillo said they were "betting on the Filipinos' knack for the retail business, as in the case of *sari-sari* stores."

In the next few weeks, Mini Stop will formally open outlets along Escolta Street in Manila and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

Outlets in Parañaque City, Pasay City and at the Robinsons Galleria mall will follow.

Mini Stop is Robinsons Retail's second venture with Mitsubishi. The first is on the production of Nissin's noodles.

ROBINSONS Convenience Store Inc. vice chair James Go (second from right) and guests throw coins during the inauguration of Mini Stop's first store at the MRT Edsa-Shaw station. ERNIE SARMIENTO

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Four Letter Words

Year after year it happens yet no one seems the slightest bit daunted clogged streets on Valentine's Day. As the old saying goes, love conquers all. Perhaps it is the hopeless romantic in every Filipino makes it an absolute necessity to hit the streets en route to their favorite dating places.

Whether going out with friends or with that special someone this Valentine's Day, it would be wise to get that extra companion from the Equitable CardNetwork. Take your pick from the host of credit cards available through the Equitable CardNetwork—the Equitable PCI-Bank Visa, VISA Electron, MasterCard, JCB, and American Express. These Equitable Cards enjoy the widest merchant acceptance not only in the Philippines but all over the world. Truth to tell, they are honored in millions of commercial establishments in 220 countries.

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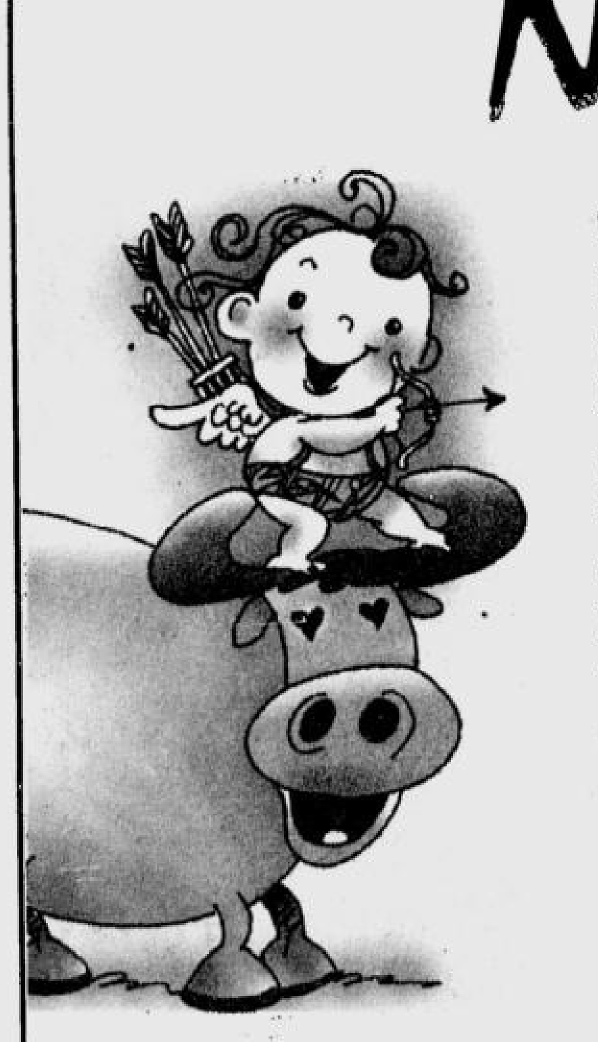
So this Valentine's Day, when you drop by that jewelry store for an absolutely stunning ring or visit your local florist for a dozen long-stemmed roses, here are a couple of thoughts to remember: money can't ever buy love, but for everything else, all it takes is an Equitable Card.

Sweet Nothings



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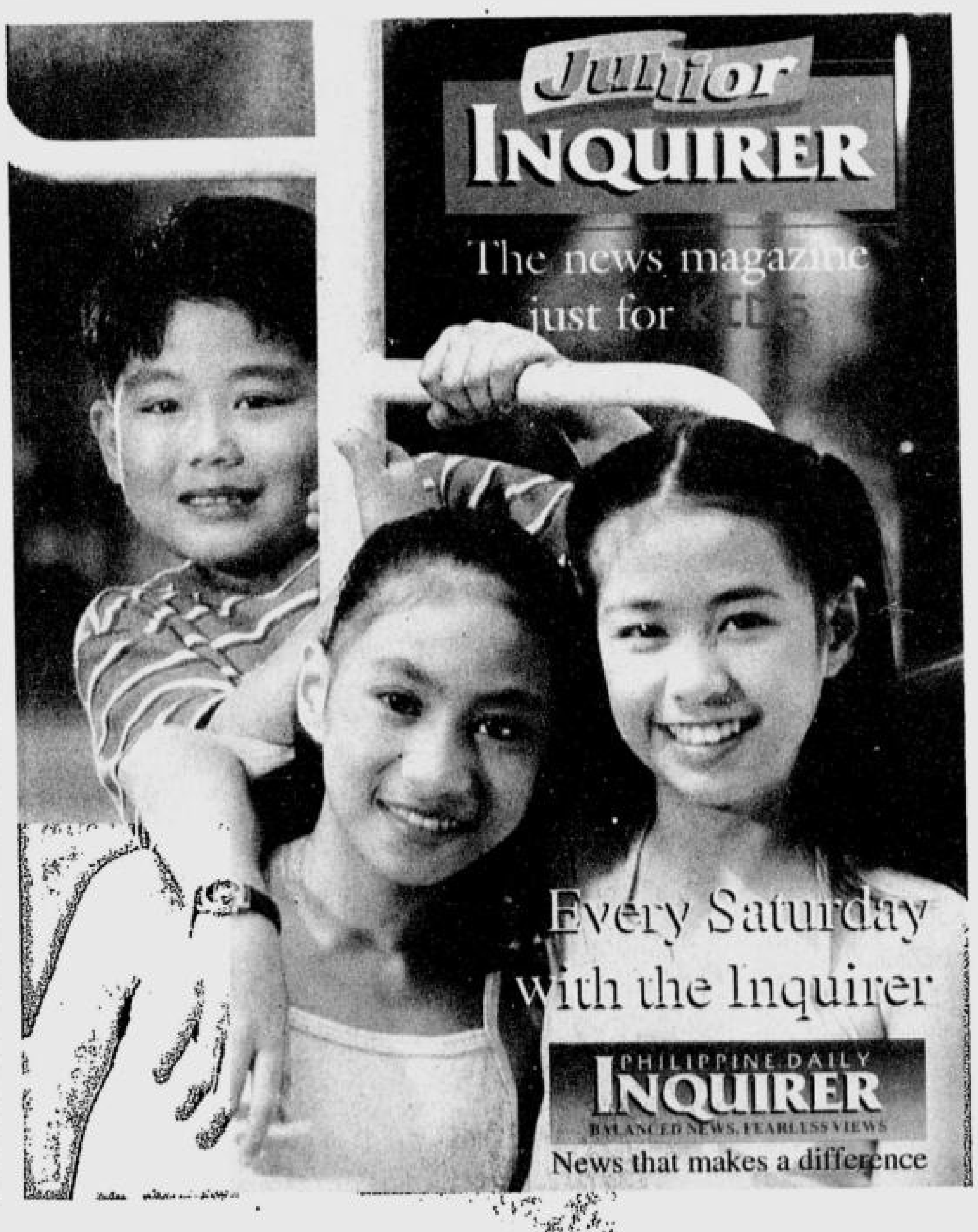
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Wall St. in 'recession rumble'

NEW YORK—Call it the "recession rumble."

A cluster of grey-suited economists scrapping over the depth of a US downturn may not have the drawing power of a boxing match, but a New York panel of three of Wall Street's leading lights on Thursday had almost enough jabs to pass for a schoolyard brawl.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter chief economist Stephen Roach, whose firm stuck its neck out last month by forecasting the world's largest economy had slumped into recession, was forced to defend that call at the Council on Foreign Relations from fellow economists who decried his call as "doom and gloom."

"What a circus," Roach said after sparring with J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. chief economist John Lipsky and Merrill Lynch & Co. chief economist Bruce Steinberg.

Roach argued that the economy was dragged into recession by six Federal Reserve interest rate hikes, high energy costs, a stock market sell-off, sliding consumer confidence, a glut of corporate technology investment and too much debt-financed consumer purchases of big-ticket items.

"We have an economy that has gone so far out on a limb with respect to excesses, it's not even funny," Roach said.

His firm forecasts the economy will shrink by 1.25 percent in the first two quarters of this year. Two quarters of contraction mark a recession. However, he expects the Fed's aggressive rate cuts last month to revive the economy by year's end.

"We work for securities firms that sell these things called stocks ... a recession is not a popular call," said Roach. "We had a lot of trauma associated with that."

Indeed, few on Wall Street are officially calling for a recession, and Lipsky and Steinberg tried to shoot holes in Roach's lines of reasoning.

Lipsky pointed out that Roach was calling for the economy to rebound and grow at a 1 percent growth rate by year's end.

"All that drama for 1 percent?" Lipsky, grinning, told the panel. "We have 1.5 percent and we think that's benign."

"That was a cheap shot," he later told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"I'm out there with a much more negative view of the world. I have been warning our customers long before John Lipsky said the risks are on the downside," he said.

Roach told the panel that the Fed's aggressive campaign to slash interest rates risked re-inflating a stock market bubble, delaying a bitter draught of necessary economic medicine.

"Recessions serve the purposes of purging excesses, and that is what this recession is all about," he said.

He said the Nasdaq stock bubble "was the single most destabilizing event to happen in the United states over the last 25 years since the inflation flare in the mid 1970s."

Consumers, lulled by the 1990's bull stock market into the belief that their wealth would only continue to grow, have racked up record levels of debt and can no longer count on selling stock to fuel their purchases, he argued.

And the Nasdaq tech stock bubble encouraged businesses to pump up their investment into high-tech equipment in a similar way to the real estate boom of the late 1980s. This had left a worrying overhang now evidenced by a dramatic cutback in new investment.

Reuters

Treasury chief agrees US has hit zero-growth

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill says he agrees with a recent assessment by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that the US economy may have stalled.

"I've looked at the data with Alan and I think we're hovering around a zero rate of growth. I would say someplace between minus 0.5 and plus 0.5, in that range. No one really knows," O'Neill said in an interview Thursday evening on public television's "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

Greenspan, in an appearance before Congress last month, estimated that current economic growth could be "very close to zero." At the same time, Greenspan gave his blessing to tax cuts, a move that provided a big boost to President George W. Bush's efforts to build support for his $1.6 trillion, 10-year tax reduction package, which he sent to Congress on Thursday.

O'Neill said the principle purpose of Bush's tax program was to bring "fairness to the tax system," but he also believed it would help out an ailing economy.

Overall, economic growth slowed to an annual rate of just 1.4 percent in the fourth quarter, the weakest performance in more than five years.

Worried that the economy could slip into a recession, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates again last week, the second half-point reduction in January.

Like Greenspan, O'Neill didn't say whether he thought the economy was now in a recession.

AP

S. Korea sees soft landing

SEOUL—South Korea's economy should achieve a soft landing this year despite fears of a sharp slowdown, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance and Eco-nomy Minister Jin Nyum said yesterday.

Jin admitted the country had "a growing number of economic indications flashing red lights, pointing to a sharp slowdown" as economists slashed their growth forecasts for the year.

"However, I do believe in a soft-landing scenario," he said in a speech to foreign correspondents in Seoul.

He predicted that sluggish consumer spending and investment would rebound "by the second half of this year" on the condition that uncertainties were dispelled about the country's financial and corporate restructuring and financial markets.

The top economic official added the signs of a slowing economy could be "painful but useful" in promoting economic reforms, which had been criticized for losing steam.

"The current difficulties can be utilized as a chance to instill a sense of urgency and, thus, gather new momentum for continued reform efforts. Despite the sharp slowdown of the macro cycle, we will firmly grapple with internal restructuring efforts," he said. *AFP*

Toshiba to boost output

TOKYO—Two Japanese electronics makers, Toshiba Corp. and NEC Corp., would increase production of advanced DRAMs (dynamic random access memory chips) to respond to changes in global demand, a daily said yesterday.

Toshiba currently produces 2.3 million units of high-speed Rambus DRAMs, which have a data transfer speed more than twice that of commodity-grade DRAMs.

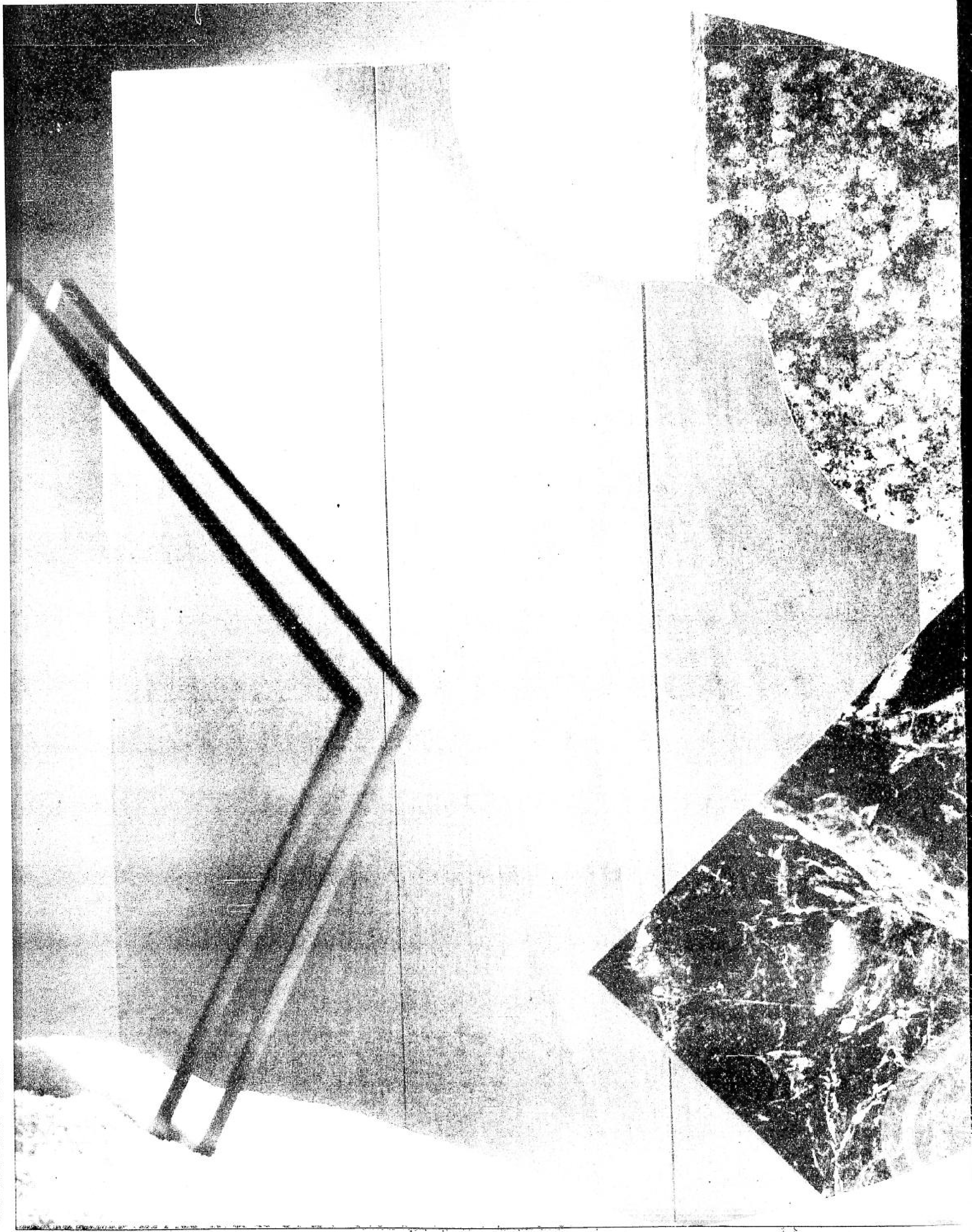
The firm now would boost its monthly output of Rambus DRAMs to eight million units by September, which would account for about 60 percent of its overall DRAM output, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

Toshiba would also halve the monthly output of its commodity-grade DRAMs to 4.5 to five million units, the business daily said.

NEC would raise monthly production of its Rambus DRAMs supplied to Elpida Memory Inc, the joint DRAM sales venture set up with Hitachi Ltd., to five million units by September from two million currently, the daily said.

NEC would also reduce output of its commodity-grade DRAMs, the Nihon Keizai said, without giving details.

AFP



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DARKEST HOUR COMMENTS

Treasury candidate wanted IMF abolished

WASHINGTON—The man heavily tipped to take the US Treasury post effectively overseeing the International Monetary Fund called for the abolition of the global lender a little over two years ago.

The comments, from Stanford University economist John Taylor, were made in a December 1998 television show produced by the Hoover Institution think-tank, a group known for its lively discussions.

"I agree it should be abolished," Taylor said, according to a transcript of the show available on the Internet.

"I'd like to do it. It should be abolished. And I'd like to do it slowly in a way that takes some of the talents there and use it in a more effective way. There's a lot of highly skilled people there and, if they can be doing things in another venue, it would be very appropriate.".

Taylor on Thursday declined to shed light on his current views on the IMF, saying, "Unfortunately, I am not in a position to comment at all at this point in time."

The transcript showed Taylor, famous in economic circles for developing the Taylor rule that explains how interest rates are set, having a field day at the IMF's expense.

He slammed the bailout of Mexico in the mid-1990s, of Asian countries during the 1997-1999 crisis and of Russia in 1998. The economist even went so far as to suggest merging the IMF with its sister organization, the World Bank.

Republican sources said Thursday Taylor's expected appointment as treasury undersecretary for international affairs was at the security clearance stage.

But those inside the IMF were unfazed. "What an academic says off the cuff on a television show is very different to what he would do at treasury," one IMF staffer said.

Another IMF staffer likened Taylor's two-year-old opinions to when Republicans campaigned for the abolition of the Department of Education.

"There have been more than two years of changes in the IMF, in the world and in the administration, and while this is certainly interesting, there have been many changes since then," the senior IMF staffer said.

Taylor complained that the IMF was not accountable enough, adding that he was disturbed that "it looks like the United States is doing things abroad under the guise of the IMF."

Taylor said the bailout of Mexico in 1995 raised expectations among investors that the IMF would always be there to hold the bag when things went wrong—a perception, he said, that made the Asian crisis even worse. He also called the US involvement in bailing out Russia the equivalent of paying "protection money."

These remarks mesh neatly with the views of the man likely to be his boss, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who in recent interviews with major newspapers has been sharply critical of the Russia bailout. O'Neill has, however, said that in retrospect, the Mexican rescue makes sense.

Taylor also took the IMF to task for imposing capital flow restrictions on Malaysia during the Asian crisis, which he said would have been better solved by massive debt rescheduling instead of bailouts.

"I think we'll see a gradual reduction of the size and role of the IMF and perhaps merging in some way with the World Bank," Taylor offered as a potential solution.

IMF insiders noted that in December 1998 the world was a very different place. The Asian financial crisis was at its peak, Russia was in tatters, Latin America was in recession and the entire world economy looked vulnerable.

In 1998, a raft of critics was lambasting the IMF for doing too little too late to spot the Asian crisis as the institution was frantically seeking to mop up the mess. In many ways, Taylor's comments came at the IMF's darkest hour.

But since then, the IMF has admitted to its past errors, saying it should have done more to spot crises and conceding that its advice on capital restrictions to Malaysia was ill-advised.

Horst Koehler, who became head of the IMF last year, has used recent speeches to show himself as aware of past mistakes and willing to make vital reforms in the future.

The IMF now presumes early repayment, something aimed at reducing the reliance on IMF funds by charging higher interest rates if loans are held for long periods.

Under a new initiative, the IMF and World Bank plan to probe members nations' banking and financial systems to identify signs of crippling weaknesses.

After the Russian debacle, where funds were misused, the IMF has performed regular audits of all countries receiving its cash and a new loan facility is now available before a crisis to help avoid one.

The IMF is also considering a proposal to set up a new department aimed at gaining better knowledge of capital markets in emerging economies—another tool to help spot problems early. *Reuters*

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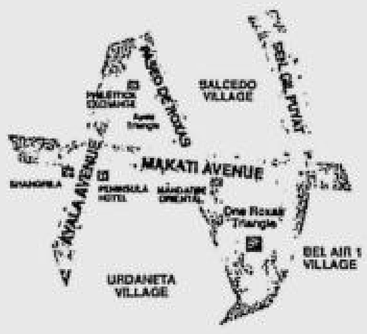

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Dumping law could aid 2,000 US firms

WASHINGTON—Over 2,000 American steel companies, chemical firms and other businesses could receive money from the federal government this year under a controversial new trade provision criticized in capitals around the world, a US customs official said Thursday.

Jeff Laxague, a special assistant in customs' office of regulation and rulings, said the agency planned to hand out the first checks under the so-called Byrd amendment by the congressional deadline of Nov. 29.

But the agency is still wrestling with how to implement the law, which requires customs to distribute revenues raised by anti-dumping and countervailing duties to US companies that seek protection against unfairly traded imports.

The Congressional Budget Office last year estimated the provision—named for Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia—could cost the federal government $39 million annually in lost duty revenues.

Supporters say the provision will help US companies that continue to suffer from unfair trade competition even after anti-dumping and countervailing duties have been opposed.

The European Union, Japan, Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand have attacked the new law as illegal under World Trade Organization rules.

By allowing affected industries to share in the anti-dumping and countervailing duties, it will encourage more companies to pursue those cases, the countries argue. *Reuters*

Deutsche says net doubled

FRANKFURT, Germany—Deutsche Bank AG said its net income doubled to 4.95 billion euros last year.

In a statement, the bank said its board of managing directors will propose to the supervisory board at its meeting on March 28 this year, upon submission of its annual financial statements for 2000, that the dividend be increased from 1.15 euros to 1.30 euros per share.

The dividend appropriation will increase to 801 million euros.

"With this dividend increase, we also wish to express our confidence in the further strengthening of the bank's earning power," Rolf-E Breuer, a Deutsche Bank spokesman, said in a news conference here.

Deutsche Bank said last year's results were mainly influenced by a 42-percent increase in its net commission income to 11.5 billion euros, a 52-percent increase in trading profit to 6.9 billion euros, and a 55-percent increase in net income to 3.1 billion euros.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late IRMINA BOLAÑOS TRINIDAD was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. 247, Page 51, Book XVI, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Manuel Sabado of Makati City.

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE S. PLANES JR. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 126; Page. 26; Book No. 1 Before Notary Public Arnulfo O. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CONCORDIA P. PORTACIO has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 120; Page. 24; Book. No. 1 Before Notary Public Arnulfo O. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)

The intestate estates of the deceased spouses NEMESIO F. ANGCO and CENONA FIGUEROA-ANGCO who died on 08 June 2000 and 17 August 1998, resfectively, have been extrajudicially settled through a Deed of extra-judicial settlement executed by their heirs on 13 November 2000, which document is denominated as Doc. 194; Page. 40; Book. 1; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Glenda Isabel L. Blason (PDI-1/27, 2/3, 10, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS and SAINT JUDE
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Blessed Loved Adored and Glorified throughout the whole world now and forever, Amen.
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Project Title	Estimated Cost	Issuance of Pre-C	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 22: Design, Supply and Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant	Php 28 Million	February 16 to 19, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	March 2, 2001	March 8, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	March 12, 2001 10:00 A.M.	March 15, 2001 9:00 A.M.

Interested suppliers may obtain Pre-C application forms from the Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Bldg. 3, 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P 1,000.00.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements (Pre-C) shall be submitted to the above-stated office not later than **February 27, 2001** after which no Pre-C will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of their pre-qualification/or pre-disqualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the PMED Office on the above-stated dates, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Room, 2nd Flr, LBP Building 3, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted at the same venue as the Pre-Bid conference, using the two (2) sealed envelope system (*envelopes "A & B"*) to be submitted to and received at the PMED Office on the above stated bidding date and time, after which no envelopes will be received.

The Bank reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

The Bank likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **GILDA E. PICO**
Chairman
LBP Sub-Committee on the LBP HQ Plaza

(PDI--Feb. 10, 11 & 14, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of Office and Printing supplies for the Supreme Court, Judicial and Bar Council, Philippine Judicial Academy and Office of the Court Administrator.

Bids of pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila on or before 10:00 a.m. **February 22, 2001.** At said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the COA Auditor and participating bidders and/or representatives at the Centennial Building, Supreme Court.

Interested bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court, which should be submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. **February 15, 2001.** Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject to this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders, after payment of a non-refundable P50.00 fee.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

February 8, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI - Feb 10 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Supreme Court Committee on Bids invites bidders, (Only manufacturers of office steel cabinets) to participate in the public bidding to be conducted for the supply and delivery of various office equipment for the use of the Lower Courts, to wit:

a. 650 units - Filing Cabinets
b. 300 units - Storage Cabinets
c. 100 units - Safe filing Cabinets

On **March 14, 2001** at exactly 2:00 p.m., the sealed bids submitted by Pre-qualified bidders shall be publicly opened in the presence of COA Auditor or his representative and participating bidders or their authorized representative.

Interested parties may secure pre-qualification requirement, terms and conditions and other particulars from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court. Pre-qualification requirement must be submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. on **February 28, 2001** at the same office. A Pre-bid Conference with all pre-qualified bidders shall be conducted at the Centennial Building, Committee on Bids on **March 7, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who attended the Pre-bid Conference will be accepted on the date of the bidding.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informalities or accept bids or offers which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

February 8, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI--Feb. 10, 2001)

Sweet Nothings

This Valentine season, tell the world how much that special someone means to you—by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the Philippines.

The INQUIRER now accepts personal ads for the Feb. 14- issue dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart, at a discounted rate of **P55** per line or **P165** per col. cm.

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NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OLD NAWASA BLDG. ☐ 176 ARROCEROS STREET ☐ 1000 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following:

LOT A	COMPUTER UNITS	
	11 units	Computer, Intel Pentium III w/ 14" Color Monitor
	03 units	Computer, Intel Pentium III w/ 14" Paperwhite Monitor
	07 units	Laser Printer
	07 units	Dot Matrix Printer
LOT B	DRINKING WATER	
	One year supplies of Purified/Mineral Drinking Water	
	36 btls.	of 5 gallons capacity for daily use w/ Hot and Cold Dispenser per btl.

Pre-qualification forms and other requirement may be secured from the Property Management Section/General Services Division, Ground Floor, 176 Old NAWASA Building, Arroceros Street, Manila.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-Bid Conference - **13 February 2001@9:30 AM**
2. Deadline of Submission:
   a. Pre-Qualification Requirement - **16 February 2001@4:00 PM**
   b. Technical & Financial Proposal - **27 February 2001@9:00 AM**
3. Opening of Bids
   a. Technical & Financial - **27 February 2001@9:30 AM**

Bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Financial proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier/Manager's Check and or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Office.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO I. TAN**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Feb 9, 10 & 11, 2001)

DUTY FREE

INVITATION TO BID

Duty Free Philippines, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid for the sale of the following unserviceable properties as follows on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS".

7 SETS ALENAIRE ACCU/AHU (3 SINGLE CIRCUIT AND 4 DOUBLE CIRCUIT)

Air Handling Units	
Capacity	30 TR
Motor	7.5HP, 220V, 3 Phase, 60Hz
FLA	20A
Air Cooled Condensing Units	
Condenser Motor	2-3 HP
Compressor Motor	2-15 TR, 220V, 3 Phase, 60Hz
2 units CATERPILLAR Diesel Generator	
Model	3412
Rating	750KVA, 220V, 3 Phase, 60Hz
Speed	1800rpm
Operating Hours	91 Hours

All interested parties may secure pre-qualification form for a non-purchasing fee of **ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00)** on **February 12-14, 2001** from the Purchasing Department, Duty Free Philippines New Fiestamall Columbia Center, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City. Submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification form will be until **February 18, 2001**. All pre-qualified contractors shall be informed on the pre-bidding conference schedule and site inspection.

Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to Ten Percent (10%) of the total contract price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuses to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids or any part thereof, waive any defects contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOEL R. PEREZ**
Chairman
Disposal Committee

(PDI -- Feb 9, 10 & 11, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Platinum

Platinum is a silvery-white ductile — it can be stretched, drawn, or hammered thin without breaking, like gold — metallic element that resists tarnishing, heat and acids (except a mixture of hydrochloric acid and nitric acid). Found in small quantities in nickel ore, platinum is used as a chemical catalyst for electrical contacts, jewelry, dental alloys, laboratory apparatus, etc. This valuable metal does not rust and is an excellent catalyst — a substance that speeds up chemical reactions. This is why it is used in catalytic converters that clean up the emissions of cars. Platinum, often mixed with similar metals such as palladium and rhodium, causes pollutants such as carbon monoxide to change to substances such as water, oxygen and carbon dioxide. The former Soviet Union and South Africa have nearly all the world's platinum reserves.

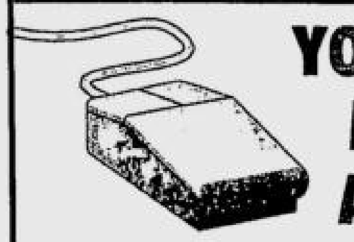
For the Record. In the United States, a platinum award is given to an album or record that sells a minimum of one million copies, while a gold album or record is one that sells at least 500,000 copies. Here in the Philippines, the minimum standards are way much lower: 40,000 copies for platinum, and 20,000 for gold.

Past Forward. This day in 1964: Beatlemania hit the United States at 73 million Americans canceled everything to watch John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Star perform on the *Ed Sullivan* show. A week earlier their single 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand" hit the top of the US hit parade. The TV appearance kicked off a 10-day US tour filled with scenes of mass hysteria and near-riot.

WORD WATCH

Hysteria (his tir ee uh): from the Greek *hysterikos*, 'suffering in the womb' — in olden days people traced many abnormal conditions to specific organs of the human body, and since women were considered more unstable emotionally than men, it was believed that *hysteria* must be derived from some purely feminine organ, and the uterus took the blame; the Greek word for uterus was *hystera.*

PDI – February 10, 2001



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We Remember Lovingly And Dearly

ISIDRO "Roy" HOJAS ESCAÑO

of Cagayan de Oro City

ON HIS 19TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
on February 10, 2001

Masses will be offered today, Saturday, February 10, 2001 at the following churches:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK, Bulua	4:00 p.m.
SAN VICENTE FERRER PARISH, Cugman	6:00 a.m.
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH, Gusa	6:00 a.m.
JESUS NAZARENO PARISH, Recto Avenue	5:30 p.m.
SACRED HEART PARISH, RER Drive	5:30 p.m.
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH, Carmen	6:00 a.m.
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL, Cagayan de Oro	5:30 p.m.
SAN ANTONIO PARISH, Nazareth	6:00 a.m.
SANTO NIÑO PARISH, Cogon	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Bulua	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY CHAPEL, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
MALAYBALAY CARMELITE MONASTERY, Bukidnon	6:30 a.m.

We, his relatives, request the friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

"You will forever be in our hearts, Daddy."

DR. ORLANDO P. PUA

Medical Center Chief
East Avenue Medical Center, Quezon City

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 6th day of February 2001 at the age of 56.

He will be missed by his wife **Alda**; by his children **Monnette**, **Allan**, **Dick**, **Jayson**, **Lalda** and **Sophie**; by his daughters-in-law **Nenen** and **Erika**; by his grandchildren **Lance** and **Trixie** and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love him.

His body lies in state at Chapel B-5, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to East Avenue Medical Center at 10:00 a.m. then to Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City at 4:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 11, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass at Christ the King, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

In Memoriam

Elenita M. Salvatierra

April 17, 1952 - February 10, 2000

On the **1st Death Anniversary** of our beloved **Ellen**, Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered today, February 10, 2001, at the following Churches:

St. Peregrine Church (Tunasan, Muntinlupa City)
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church (Project 4, Quezon City)
St. Joseph's Shrine (Aurora Blvd., Project 3, Quezon City)
Barasoain Church (Malolos, Bulacan)
St. Francis of Assisi Church (Meycauayan, Bulacan)
Sts. Peter and Paul Metropolitan Cathedral (Tuguegarao City)
Ermita de San Jacinto Church (Tuguegarao City)
Basilica Menore of Our Lady of Piat (Piat, Cagayan)
Our Lady of Snows Parish Church (Ennie, Cagayan)
St. Francis Church (Mill Park, Victoria, Australia)

We thank all those who continue to keep our beloved **Ellen** in their memory and in their prayers.

Marcial, Rico, Abby, Billy, King and Ela

"I will sing forever of your love, O Lord!"

Sister Mary Cecilia M. Lantin, RGS

(Ma. Nilda Macasaet Lantin, STC HS '40)

11 January 1923 - 8 February 2001

On the congregational feast of the Holy Heart of Mary, Sister Mary Cecilia joined the communion of saints after spending 51 years as a Good Shepherd Sister. **The Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd Sisters** and the surviving children of her deceased parents **Dr. Pedro T. Lantin** and **Dolores Macasaet**, enjoin the reader to pray for Sister Cecile. The wake is at the Good Shepherd Chapel, 1043 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. Interment at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, follows the 9 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection on Sunday, 11 February 2001.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

GUILLERMA BALTAZAR ULANDAY

of San Fabian, Pangasinan

100th Birth Anniversary
February 10, 1901 - May 11, 1984

Masses will be offered today at 6 a.m. at **San Fabian Parish** in *San Fabian, Pangasinan*, **San Bartolome Church** in *Malabon*, **Our Lady of Grace Parish** in *Grace Park, Caloocan City*, **St. Gabriel Archangel Parish** in *Araneta Ave., Caloocan City*, **San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica** in *Binondo, Manila*, **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish** in *Barasoain Malolos, Bulacan*; 7 a.m. at **Basilica Minore of the Immaculate Conception** in *Malolos, Bulacan*; 8 a.m. at **Sta. Cruz Parish** in *Sta. Cruz, Manila*, **Minor Basilica of the Black Nazareth** in *Quiapo, Manila*; and on February 11 at 10:00 a.m. at **Parish of St. John the Evangelist** in *Dagupan City*.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

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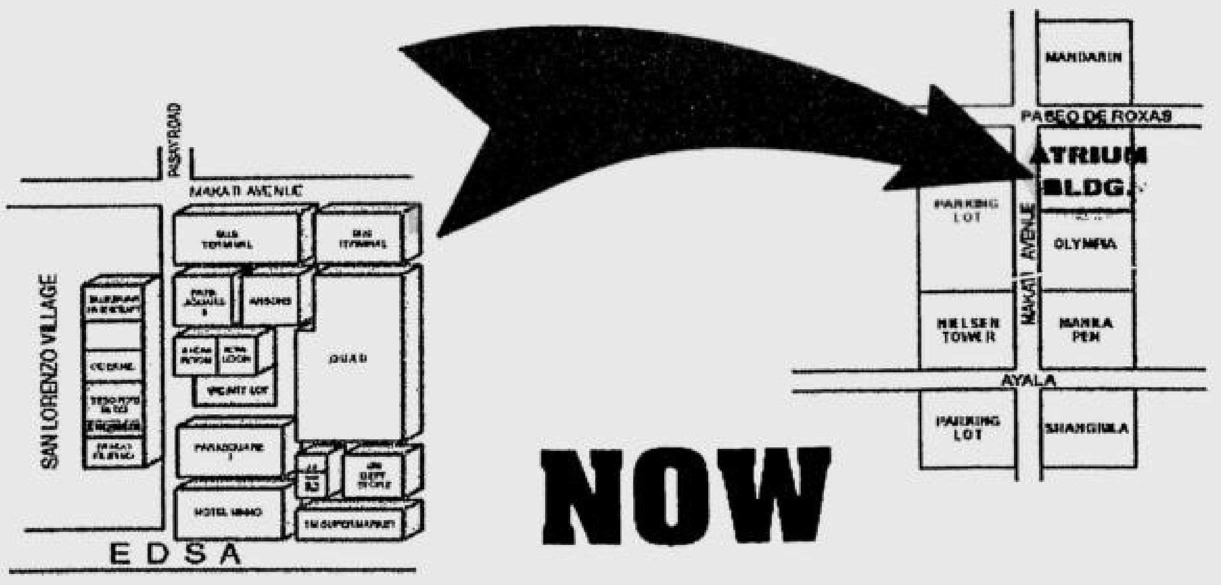

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People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Marie France introduces new fat-reducing technology

TO ACHIEVE that flawless figure, Marie France Bodyline International is introducing thermolipolysis—a new non-invasive, non-surgical method that burns fat the fastest way. Requiring neither exercise nor pills or injections, this modern slimming technique is offered in all Marie France branches nationwide.

Thermolipolysis is a heat-generating system that safely works in four stages: it stimulates the body's natural thermogenic process to burn fat faster; it increases the amount of energy you feel so you can continuously lose fat even after the treatment; it increases localized metabolism and facilitates the dissolving of fat, and it gets rid of water retention and flushes out toxins.

With thermolipolysis, the weight you lose is exclusively from fat and not lean muscle mass. "One good thing about thermolipolysis is that you not only burn fat but prevent it from again being stored in your body," said Dr. Ariel Torres, one of Marie France's in-house medical doctors.

When combined with Marie France's other body-sculpting treatments, thermolipolysis can result in better slimming effects.

Marie France is one of the country's premier slimming centers. For free consultations, visit your friendly slimming experts at their branches located at Makati, Ortigas, Quezon City, Binondo, Alabang, Shaw Boulevard and Cebu City.

BOMBO RADYO-STI ALLIANCE

Bombo Radyo Philippines, the No. 1 radio network in the country, has inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with STI to seal its partnership in the May 14, 2001 elections coverage dubbed "The Vote 2001." The alliance of the leading radio network in the country and the premier computer school guarantees a state-of-the-art election coverage that shall deliver election results and other election-related events fast, first and right. Sealing the partnership are (from left) Noel Sauz, STI general manager; Jem Bengzon, STI VP for marketing; Herman Z. Basbaño, Bombo Radyo Philippines AVP-COO; Spanky Enriquez, STI communications manager; Alma Jadie, Bombo Radyo network comptroller and George B. Castro, Bombo Radyo Philippines research and development director.

BARBIE PARTY

The Barbie Fan Club or BFC, considered the oldest running young girl's club in the country with more than 3,000 strong member nationwide, held its 20th annual Christmas party at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas. The event was organized by Richwell Trading Corporation, the exclusive distributor of Barbie dolls, licensee and Mattel products. with the balloons given by Lollipop. Highlight of the party was the selection of adorable three-year-old Christiana L. Guillermo, as the winner in the "Dress Up Like A Young Princess Contest" (foreground, center). Nine-year-old Pamela Ruth Namuco (foreground, right) and five-year-old Monica Shy (foreground, left) got the second and third prizes, respectively. Judges of the competition include Edwin Gonzales, traffic manager of dwRock; Agnes dela Cruz, Special Projects director, LH Marketing; Serafin Bautista, VP for marketing – GMA 7; Maye T. Yao, RTC marketing manager and Elena Go, Barbie image model.

Forego breakfast and feed the orphans

NOT many know that eBusiness software leader Computer Associates provides free breakfast for its employees everyday. This has been a 25-year old tradition which founder Charles B. Wang started by buying doughnuts for his staff every morning. Recently, the free breakfast took a different turn when CA designated a "Breakfast to Charity " week. CA employees all over the world agreed to forego their breakfast or lunch tickets and donate the money saved for the week to humanitarian organization worldwide.

In the Philippines, the beneficiary was the Association de Damas Filipinas Inc. Settlement House in Paco, Manila. There are 62 orphans currently living at the orphanage, which was established in 1919 to provide temporary shelter and foster service to children who have been orphaned, neglected and abandoned at an early age.

Ley Salcedo, CA Phils. country manager said CA responds to requests for cash or food from local communities who need it most. Their community participation is one way of sustaining the employees' concern for the community where they live and work. Since 1999, CA matches every employee contributions 200 percent and has since then raised more than US$7 million to benefit more than 4,000 organizations.

CA, which has more than 18,000 employees worldwide, delivers the most advanced and comprehensive portfolio of software solutions that manage eBusiness. Every year, the company is cited by corporations and trade publications for its leadership role in the business intelligence market space, customer relationship management and data warehousing.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT

Total Petroleum signs up as a major sponsor of dzMM's "Takbo Para Sa Kalikasan," an annual marathon race for the environment. Sealing the sponsorship agreement with a handshake are Total Petroleum Philippines Corporation (TPPC) corporate affairs manager Rona Quejada and dzMM-Radyo Patrol station manager Angelo Palmones. To be held at CCP on Feb. 11, 2001, this year's fun run is being organized to breath new life into Manila Bay with the planting of fresh mangroves along the coast.

UCARE MILK APPOINTS STARLITE CARGO XPRESS

Ucare Milk appoints Starlite Cargo Xpress, Inc. as the official handler of entries to the "Ucare Dobol, Tripol, Kwadrupol, Cash Rapol" nationwide consumer promotion. Signing the agreement are (from left) Citadel Cortez, Starlite account officer; Shirley Francisco, Starlite VP-marketing and business development; Richard Tay, New Zealand Milk marketing manager and Edwin Valles, New Zealand Milk brand manager. Standing from, left: Arlene Alfajardo, Starlite sales manager and Macro Torres, New Zealand Milk brand manager.

New radio program tackles work issues

A NEW public service radio program that tackles work-related issues and people had started its first broadcast last Feb. 4, 2001. Titled "Job On Air," the talk show touches on work ethics, values and attitudes, professionalism and leadership, among others. It also focuses on topics such as the labor code, unionism, office romance and people management. These are discussed with guest panelists from both government and private sectors that are considered authorities on the subject matter. "Jobs On Air" also has a segment featuring job openings or vacancies in different companies and agencies. Tips and pointers for effective interviews and powerful résumés or are also shared with listeners.

Another feature of the weekly program is the "Celebrity Employer of the Week," where a personality from show business, politics or sports, who is also an employer, shares his/her management style and business expertise with others.

"Jobs On Air" is produced by icc.communications in cooperation with the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). Aired every Sunday, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. over dwSS 1494 AM the show is hosted by Barbie L. Atienza, 1998 PMAP president. For job applications and openings, call icc.communications at 526-4825.

WESOLV-NETWORK APPLIANCE PARTNERSHIP

WeSolv Open Computing Inc., the wholly owned communications and networking subsidiary of Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. signs a partnership agreement with Network Appliance Inc., the leading provider of network-attached data access and content delivery solutions. Through this partnership, Network Appliance and WeSolv will offer powerful network-attached storage solutions to Internet-enabled enterprises in the Philippines. Present at the contract signing ceremony are (from left) Peter G. Tan, WeSolv president; Felipe R. Manalang, vice chair and CEO of WeSolv; Network Appliance's Edward Musialkiewicz, acting managing director for Southeast Asia and India; and Carlos Haw, manager of Internet Solutions Group of WeSolv.

BEARS IN FLIGHT 2001

Nestlé Philippines, Inc., makers of Bear Brand, recently launched Bear Brand's Bears in Flight 2001. The annual kite-flying fest showcases the talent and creativity of participants in conceptualizing and designing a kite. Shown during the signing of the agreement are (seated, from left) Bear Brand assistant brand manager Trina Abola, Publicis AMA IMC-I director Rico Roa, Nestlé Milks senior vice president Gilbert M. Joven, and Publicis AMA senior executive vice president and chief operating officer Gil G. Chua. Witnesses are (from left) Publicis AMA Events VP Leslie Noble, Publicis AMA account executive Yvonne Hontanosas, and Nestlé Philippines Inc. Special Events, Milks brand assistant Marlon Mendoza.

PSB Home Free: A first for homebuyers

PSBANK launched on Feb. 5, 2001 its newest product called PSB Home Free. The product provides values to home buyers guaranteed to make their purchase not only cost-efficient but practically free.

Here is a wish list that may sound incredibly but is actually a reality at PSBank.

- Term is at a longer 25-year or 30-year period.
- For the first 5 years, only the interest is paid making it more affordable on a monthly basis. Repayment of principal starts only on the sixth year.
- What's more, at the end of the mortgage period, the homebuyer will get back the entire principal amount of the loan. That's why it's called PSB Home Free.

Loanable amount is from a minimum of P500,000 to a maximum of P12 million.

For inquiries, call Mortgage Banking Division at 843-2038 locals 8404 to 8414.

SPLASH SPONSORS BABY CONGRESS

Splash Manufacturing Corporation, makers of pioneering and innovative beauty and personal care products, sponsored the recent Baby Congress 2000 held at the Dusit Hotel Makati through Vitasoft Protectives, the only anti-microbial range of baby products in the market today. Shown are prima ballerina and celebrity, Liza Macuja-Elizalde and her daughter, flanked by promo representatives of Splash, taking a look at the Vitasoft Protectives booth.

USA Sports gets Manila in shape

USA Sports, a sport-type garment manufacturer based in Cebu recently opened its first sales outlet in Filinvest Festival Mall. USA Sports collection features a range of apparel from casual tees to serious performance wear using 3M Scotchlite Reflective material. Its merchandise reflects the brand's commitment to quality and innovation. Each product is constructed from durable fabric for optimum comfort. It also has accessories that complement your athletic outfit.

USA Sports also showcases a whole line of aerodynamically designed eyewear and offers a series of sports time pieces specially manufactured by one of America's watch makers.

ARTS AND KRAFT WINNERS

Kraft Foods Philippines (KFPI) awarded six schools from Metro Manila that joined the recently concluded Arts and Kraft Drawing Contest. All winning schools and student representatives have received cash prizes and educational materials such as personal computer, one set of education videos and art materials. Shown are the winning students from St. Paul's Pasig, Elizabeth Seton, Ateneo de Manila, Claret School, Angelicum College (not in picture, PAREF Woodrose) with (second row, from left) Kraft's Evaristo Francisco, operations director, Southeast Asia; Nick Lim; HRD director, Southeast Asia; Cathy P. Santamaria, marketing director; Pet S. Bautista, VP and area director of Kraft Foods International, Southeast Asia and Josie Esquivel, TRD director.

Adamson University alumni homecoming

ADAMSON University will hold its annual homecoming day on Feb. 11, 2001, at the Manila Midtown Hotel on Pedro Gil Street, Malate, Manila. Registration for high school will start at 3:30 p.m. while college alumni registration starts at 6 p.m. to be followed by the awarding of honorees. For more information, contact the alumni secretariat at 524-6544 or Lino C. Reynoso at the Basic Education department of Adamson University, 524-2011 local 108 and 113.

PAPER ELEGANCE IN CEBU

Paper Elegance introduced its exclusive, world-class and extraordinary invitations to the Cebu market during the recently concluded "An Affair Two Remember," a bridal fair held at the Cebu Plaza Hotel. Shown are Sharon P. Fabian, manager of Paper Elegance; Daya Uytengsu, Paper Elegance Cebu dealer; and Philip Rodriguez, one of Cebu's top fashion designers.

SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Science dep't rift worsens

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

URIARTE

WITH or without the reappointment of Dr. Filemon A. Uriarte, the United Department of Science and Technology Employees Association (Unidea) agreed to submit its formal charges against him to the Office of the Ombudsman and the Civil Service Commission. It has also enjoined all its members to get more supporting documents against Uriarte.

The union officers of the Unidea, who refused to be named individually, say animosity now exists in the workplace. Vocal union officers, according to them, are placed at a disadvantage against some top-ranking Uriarte supporters as their every move are now being questioned. Even the mass action that the union holds every noon was not sustained as rank and file employees fear retaliation from the Uriarte camp. The Unidea revealed that Uriarte supporters are circulating a letter of unwavering support for him to be signed by DOST employees.

The Unidea is an umbrella organization of employees associations in 19 agencies of the DOST. The embattled DOST has a specific mandate to promote the development of science and technology in the Philippines via research and development, help develop technology, aid in the production sector of these technologies and develop science and technology infrastructure.

Misappropriation

Apart from the charge of misappropriation of the World Bank-funded Engineering and Science Education Project (Esep) which Uriarte allegedly intended to divert for the foreign training of DOST personnel whose selection were also in question, issues involving the disbursement of DOST Grants-in-Aid (GIA) funds were also raised. These GIA funds were allegedly approved and implemented in violation of existing DOST GIA rules. The Unidea alleges that the GIA projects—in Uriarte's hometown Unisan, Quezon and in his organization Couples for Christ livelihood programs—were approved and funded with the direct hand of Uriarte.

The Esep funds' misappropriation—a balance from a World Bank loan—did not push through, as Unidea officers claim they were able to foil it. They reasoned out that Esep funds should be returned to the Philippine government to help reduce the burden of the country's foreign loans. Originally allotted in the University of Wisconsin training was $45,684 excluding miscellaneous expenses and international travel.

Denial

Uriarte continues to deny accusations hurled at him. Uriarte said that he did not misappropriate the Esep funds, saying he "scrapped and canceled" the proposal for a management of technology training course in the University of Wisconsin and that the Esep funds are still intact.

Other issues in question were projects and programs implemented, which accommodated foreign consultants with "huge fees taken from the funds of DOST." According to the data obtained by the INQUIRER, two unidentified foreign consultants, among others, got the bulk of a P3.5-million project with their fees amounting to P2.1 million. Two other foreign consultants were paid P1.26 million.

"That's excessive for a country like ours to get foreign consultants. We have the best people in the Philippines, why hire a foreign consultant? We have good people you don't have to pay that much. *Naghihirap tayo.* For a P3.5-million project you pay your consultants P2.1 million? That's excessive," said a Unidea officer who refused to be named.

Uriarte answered this allegation, saying that the rate for foreign consultants in the project developing Graduate Education in Microelectronics was based on the prevailing hiring rate for consultants. He said, however, that no consultant had been hired as of this date.

No violation

Uriarte also said there was no violation in the disbursement of the DOST Grants-in-Aid funds. He stressed that of the 17 pro-poor projects, two projects have CFC Angkop Foundation as one of the proponents, eight others have NGOs (nongovernment organizations) and LGU (local government unit) as proponents and seven are purely DOST agency projects.

"While it is true that I am a member of the Couples for Christ, I am neither an incorporator, director nor organizer of the CFC Angkop Foundation, a nonstock and nonprofit organization which entered into an MOA (memorandum of agreement) with DOST agencies for the improvement of the quality of life in urban centers," said Uriarte.

Revival

The Unidea also revived the unresolved cases filed against Uriarte and former Assistant Secretary Imelda Rodriguez at the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption.

The Unidea raised that the secretary approved the retirement despite the PCAG cases filed against Rodriguez.

"She should also be held liable for this in the same way that he should be held liable for this. But he allowed her to retire. In three days in less than a week, she was able to get her retirement check worth millions," said a Unidea officer.

Rodriguez was being charged for violation of Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for allegedly "wangling the donation of three motor vehicles in exchange for the free rentals by the Land Bank of the Philippines of a parcel of land belonging to the DOST."

She was also being charged for collecting a yearly honorarium of P36,000 as a project consultant of the WB-funded Esep without the required consultancy contract. The Unidea stressed that being an official of the DOST, Rodriguez was not authorized to enter into consultancy contract or collect honorarium.

"There is nothing political, nothing personal about the issue. Unidea is only doing its job as the recognized employee organization in DOST. We are not even pushing for anyone or advocating (anyone)," the officer declared.

Test scores and more butcher problems

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

HERE is a letter from a fellow academic, L.M.G. Cordero of the University of Asia and the Pacific, Pasig (lui@uap.edu.ph):

I work in a university as you do, and I can identify with many of the topics you have written about. I particularly appreciate that piece regarding your humanities students (Sept. 2, 2000). It suggests that true humanism is not averse to math. I think that helps to correct the tendency in the humanities (those fields that teach us what it is to be human) today to be soft, wooly and purely subjective. Math is truly humanizing if it helps people to recognize what their minds are capable of—the ability to hold ideas firmly while still being open to all sorts of creative possibilities. There's no way to get around the reality of Fermat's Last Theorem, but all sorts of paths can be tried to prove it.

I also heard about a lecture you gave recently in a conference for young educators. You recounted your experience concerning a rude foreigner who said that he had never heard of any Filipina like you, since all he knew of Filipinas was that they tend to be mail-order brides and domestic helpers. In principle, there is nothing wrong if an individual Filipina decides to be a mail-order bride or to work abroad as a domestic helper, as long as she decides in full freedom. However, it is hard to say that there's nothing wrong with a society that offers no better options for her citizens than for them to leave.

There's no easy way to earn the rest of the world's respect. It's more difficult to change structures, so I'd say earning that respect still begins with individual Filipinos. Whether we're helpers, teachers, or engineers, we have to be good at what we do, then we can demand what is our due. And we can demand it of anyone—Filipino or foreigner.

Let me end this with a quick query: Does it make sense to try Kumon to acquire the facility and speed necessary to score well in standardized tests like the GMAT, SAT and GRE? I know Kumon entails mastery as shown in applying the skills without error and within a given time limit.

I have written on Kumon before (Sept. 2, 2000) and what I said then I will say again now—it has improved the math skills of many students, but some of my own college students hate it, and attribute their dislike of math to it. In the final analysis, perhaps what you will get out of Kumon depends on the provider and your own diligence and persistence in learning math through its precepts.

That said, I don't think Kumon will harm your chances of scoring well on GMAT, etc., but definitely Kumon is not necessary. If you are targeting these tests, the best way to review for them would be to get hold of some reviewers (there are lots in bookstores or online) and practice on the mathematics exercises there.

Thank you for your insights on mathematics and the humanities—and for your challenge to all of us Filipinos to earn respect ourselves.

* * *

A few months ago (Sept. 30, 2000), a reader posed this question: "If three butchers can slaughter three cows in three minutes, how long would it take 100 butchers to slaughter 100 cows?" Here is the best reply, by someone who prefers to remain anonymous:

A similar question I have encountered goes like this: "If three cats can catch three mice in three minutes, how long would it take 100 cats to catch 100 mice?" There are many variations of the same problem, one of which is the butcher problem above.

What this problem is saying is that any three butchers can slaughter any three cows in three minutes. This shows at least two underlying assumptions:

1.No cow is too different from the others that it takes a longer or shorter time to slaughter it. Otherwise, if, for example, three cows are too resistant or aggressive compared to the others, it may take longer than three minutes for any three butchers to slaughter them.

2. Every butcher in a group of three contributes the same amount of work during the three-minute interval. This is the same as saying that one butcher slaughters one cow in three minutes, assuming that any butcher can slaughter a cow on his own. If this assumption is dropped, it may be possible that one butcher is too slow compared with the other two. So it may happen that two butchers are finished in three minutes with one cow each while the slow one is still working on the third cow.

Keeping all these in mind, if there are 100 cows, then each of the 100 butchers takes one cow to slaughter. They all start at the same time and finish after three minutes!

Some variations can be developed from this solution. This time, it is possible for three butchers to work on a cow. If three butchers can slaughter four cows in five minutes,

a. How long does it take 99 butchers to slaughter 132 cows?

b. How many butchers are needed to slaughter 100 cows in five minutes?

There's another challenge, readers! Can you answer the two questions above? To provide more incentive, I will give an autographed copy of my book to the first three readers with the correct answers. Make sure to provide your complete explanations and solutions, and mail to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Dept., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci. math.admu.edu.ph.

Short sleep need not be part of growing old

WHAT do M.T., aged 55, and R.S., 68, and other elderly men and women, have in common? Short and light sleep induced or not by the stresses of life. A clinical study shows that recurrent sleep disorders needn't be an inevitable part of the aging process.

A clinical study performed by Professors Garfinkel, Laudon, Nof and Cizafel reported that elderly people, whose melatonin production is supplemented, are able to improve their sleep quality.

Melatonin is a substance produced in the pineal gland at night. It has been shown to regulate the sleep-wake cycle or the body's biological clock. It is the one of the most used dietary supplements in the United States and is believed to be the biological answer to sleeping problems which may lead to depression, low sex drive, diminished mental and physical performance.

The Garfinkel, Laudon, Nof and Cizafel study was published in the prestigious international medical journal, The Lancet. It was a highly scientific and well-designed study, being randomized, double-blind, with cross-over design. The study passed the usual stringent peer-review scrutiny of the journal editorial board prior to publication.

"Among the elderly," the authors said, "the frequency of sleep disorders is high and there is an association of impairment of melatonin production. Sleep efficiency was significantly greater after melatonin administration than after placebo and the waking time after sleep onset was significantly shorter."

Important role

The authors concluded that melatonin deficiency may have an important role in the high frequency of insomnia among elderly people. The authors believe that melatonin replacement therapy effectively improves sleep quality in this population group. In both the melatonin and placebo groups, no significant adverse effects were reported.

Animal studies suggest that melatonin may even have an anti-aging effect resulting in a longer life span of the animal.

Locally, doctors also report of patients with sleep disorders who have benefited from melatonin supplementation. A 55-year old bank executive had recurrent sleep disorders, which were deemed to be stress-induced. His sleep was light and he would frequently wake up at night and have difficulty going back to sleep. He was prescribed Melatonin-T 3 mg at bedtime. No improvement was noted in the first few days, but after two weeks of regular intake, he enjoyed the soundest sleep he had been missing in a long time. He was advised by his physician to continue taking the food supplement at bedtime.

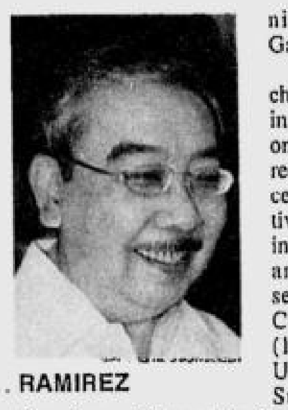
Another case is that of a 68-year-old housewife who only managed to get three hours of sleep every night. She slept at 10 p.m. and would wake up at 1 a.m. She has learned to live with this schedule believing that it was part of the aging process. She was prescribed Melatonin-T by her attending physician and her sleep progressively lengthened. After one month of regular intake, her sleep would last 5 to 6 hours at night and she would have a 30-60 minute sleep in the afternoon.

Quality of sleep

Many users of Melatonin-T are reported to benefit more from the improvement in the deeper and better quality of the sleep rather than the duration or length of the sleeping hours. Literatures report of a more refreshing sleep despite the same duration of sleep.

Trianon Melatonin-T is available as an over-the-counter food supplement in Mercury drug stores. It is manufactured by HealthCo International, which has consistently received awards as one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality vitamins and food supplements in the United States. It is locally distributed by Trianon International and Healthline Systems. *PLG News & Views*

UP Manila chancellor conferred UNO award



RAMIREZ

"UNO" means "No. 1" or the "top person, place, etc." But as an acronym, it stands for "Upsilonian Noble and Outstanding," a prestigious award given by the Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association Inc. to deserving alumni brothers.

Not too long ago, four men were awarded by the association during its eighth congress held at UP Diliman. One of those four was UP Manila Chancellor Alfredo T. Ramirez. (The rest of the honorees were Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, South East Asian Regional Center for Agriculture head Dr. Ruben Villareal, former Ambassador Alberto Pedrosa to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg.) Ramirez was given the award in recognition of his noble and outstanding achievements and steadfast dedication to the Upsilonian ideals of brotherhood, integrity, excellence, leadership and service, thereby giving meaning to the fraternity's motto "We Gather Light to Scatter."

Ramirez became chancellor of UP Manila in November 1999 based on his outstanding track record of scholarship, excellence and administrative experience rendered in various organizations and institutions. He served as dean of the College of Medicine (1991-1994), chair of the UP-PGH Dept. of Surgery (1988-1991), Polymedic General Hospital (1977-1981), and the Manila Doctors Hospital (1981-1983). He founded the country's first and only burn unit (PGH), served as an adviser to the Minister of Health (1979-1981) and was the youngest president of the Philippine College of Surgeons.

Ramirez graduated summa cum laude from UP Diliman and completed his medical degree as valedictorian also from UP. He obtained MS Surgery from Tufts University in Boston.

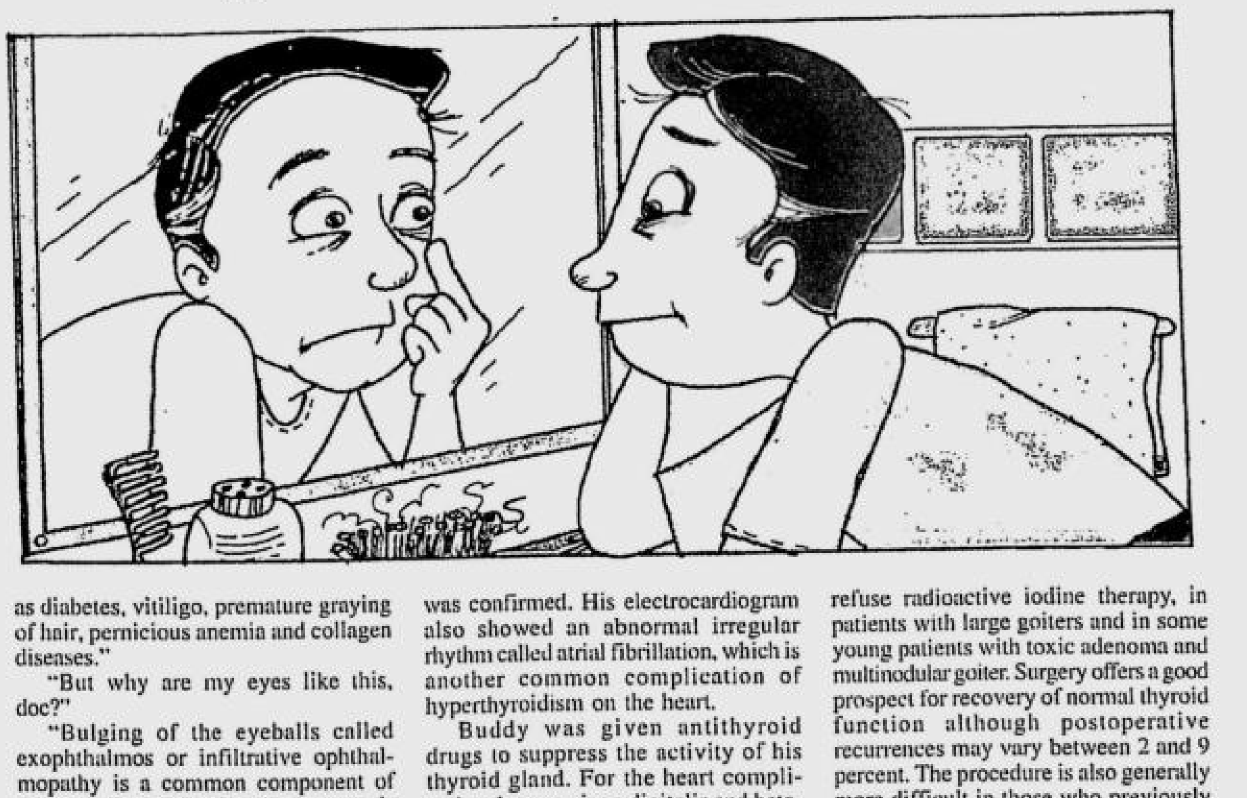
SCISCOPE

Public health ophthalmology seminar

THE COLLEGE of Public Health and the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila, will hold the first seminar on "Public Health Ophthalmology—A New Concept and Solution to an Old Problem—Blindness" on March 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the CPH auditorium, 625 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila. Sixteen speakers will tackle topics that include sight conservation and blindness program, eye health, environmental hazards to eye health, eye health and eye diseases related to occupation, burden of disease (blindness) in the general population, preventive/public health ophthalmology, preventive/public health ophthalmology in various ocular diseases, primary eye care and public health ophthalmology, role of referral in primary eye care and national sight plan for the new millennium. The seminar is open to physicians and health professionals interested in ophthalmology. The course coordinators are Doctors Rossina Lydia T. Ramirez, assistant for research and section head; Manuel B. Agulto, chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; and Benjamin C. Vitasa, Dean, College of Public Health. For inquiries, please call up Baby or Letty at 524-7119 and Anna or Rizza at 524-2703.

The case of the provocative stare

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.



BUDDY is a 25-year-old medical representative of a local pharmaceutical company. People who know him well swear that he is gentle and kind-hearted. It came as a big surprise when one morning, he reported to work with bruises on his face and hands. He explained that he got into a fight with the guy standing next to him in the LRT who didn't like what he described as Buddy's provocative stare.

After that incident, Buddy started to realize that his eyes have indeed changed recently. He looked at the mirror and noted that his eyes were somewhat bigger which gave a peculiar unfriendly stare without his meaning to. This was accompanied by loss of weight despite his voracious appetite, palpitations, nervousness, hand tremors, increased sweating and frequent bowel movements. He decided to consult his family physician.

"You have the classic signs and symptoms of increased thyroid activity secondary to Graves' disease or diffuse toxic goiter," the doctor said after the usual history and physical examination.

Graves' disease is the most common cause of hyperthyroidism which is characterized by one or more of the following: enlargement of the thyroid gland or goiter, prominence of the eyeballs with a "provocative" stare called exophthalmos and pretibial myxedema which is a nonpitting swelling in the ankle and legs. It has a chronic course with remissions and relapses.

"How did I get this, doc?" Buddy asked.

"It's an autoimmune disorder," the doctor explained. "Your body produces an antibody against the thyroid receptors that causes continuous stimulation of the thyroid gland. Hence, it produces excessive quantities of the thyroid hormones specifically T4. Graves' disease is sometimes associated with other autoimmune disorders such as diabetes, vitiligo, premature graying of hair, pernicious anemia and collagen diseases."

"But why are my eyes like this, doc?"

"Bulging of the eyeballs called exophthalmos or infiltrative ophthalmopathy is a common component of Graves' disease but its exact reason is poorly understood. It may result from immunoglobulins directed to specific antigens in the extraorbital eye muscles and fibroblast tissues. It is frequently seen in active hyperthyroidism but may also occur before the onset of hyperthyroidism or as late as 15 to 20 years afterward. Aside from the stare, it may be accompanied by lagging or retraction of the eyelids and mild degrees of conjunctival redness."

"Will this exophthalmos improve with treatment of hyperthyroidism, doc?"

"There's no guarantee. In many instances, the exophthalmos improves or worsens independent of the clinical course of hyperthyroidism."

Buddy underwent a series of tests including measurement of his thyroid hormone levels and thyroid radioactive iodine uptake. Increased thyroid activity was confirmed. His electrocardiogram also showed an abnormal irregular rhythm called atrial fibrillation, which is another common complication of hyperthyroidism on the heart.

Buddy was given antithyroid drugs to suppress the activity of his thyroid gland. For the heart complication, he was given digitalis and beta-blockers, which controlled the signs and symptoms of the sympathetic nervous system including palpitations, tremors, heat intolerance and sweating.

The possibility of radioactive iodine or surgical treatment in the future was also discussed. Radioactive iodine is the most common therapy in the United States for patients with hyperthyroidism. The fear that it might cause tumors, leukemia, thyroid cancer or birth defects in women who become pregnant later on is unfounded. It is recommended as the treatment of choice for Graves' disease and toxic nodular goiter.

Surgical treatment is indicated for relatively young patients with Graves' disease whose disease has recurred after a reasonable period of adequate coverage with antithyroid drugs, in those who refuse radioactive iodine therapy, in patients with large goiters and in some young patients with toxic adenoma and multinodular goiter. Surgery offers a good prospect for recovery of normal thyroid function although postoperative recurrences may vary between 2 and 9 percent. The procedure is also generally more difficult in those who previously have undergone thyroidectomy or radioiodine therapy.

After three months of treatment with antithyroid drugs, Buddy felt a lot better. His symptoms were no longer bothersome and he had put on weight again. The eye signs also improved. He no longer worried about getting a punch from a stranger or being booted out of a room for giving someone an unintentional provocative stare.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some data have been changed to cover the identity of the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Please send comments or questions to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila or e-mail rcc@i-manila.com.ph.)

ANNIE CARMONA, Marketing Consultant

all about élan

[éla] *flair, distinction, class*

HOWARD BORJA, Art Director

CONCHITINA SEVILLA-BERNARDO, Editor

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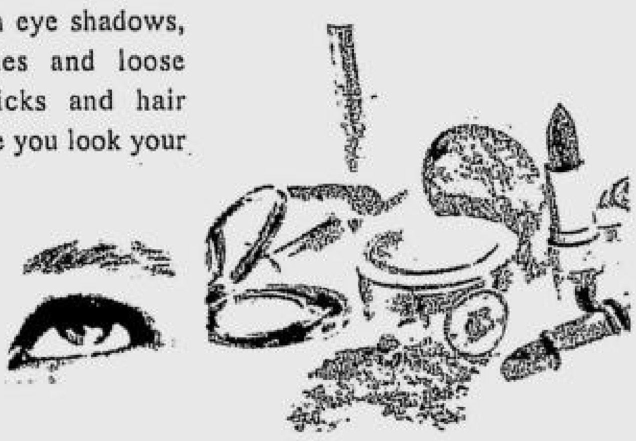
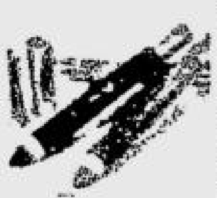
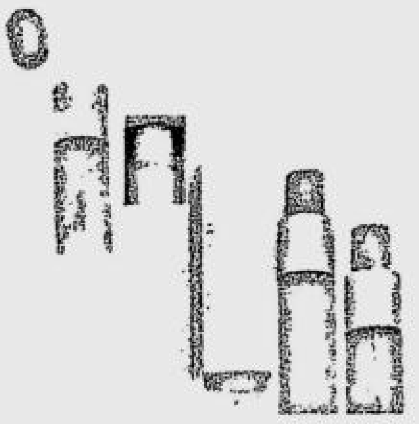
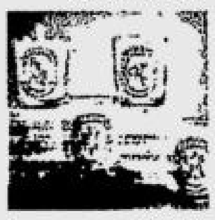


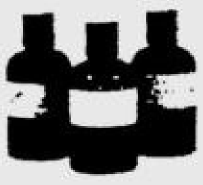
Release yourself from the tension of life at our treatment rooms. There, we pamper you inside out with the therapeutic touch of masseurs and masseuses. Meanwhile, our oils, lotions, soaps and skin care products make sure you enjoy the same VIP treatment at home.





Nourish yourself with flavors that keep you feeling at your prime. Enjoy the spice of life with flavored lip lubes and homeopathic sprays specifically dedicated to your taste. Visit the tea bar to sample refreshing beverages and savory entrees in a truly relaxing atmosphere.





Make your presence felt and fill the air with unique fragrances that bare your character. Then, relax the body and calm the soul with Essenses' wide range of aromatic candles, scented stones, body spritzers and spray mists that create a lasting impression with every breath taken.

TRUE ESSENCE
by
essenses

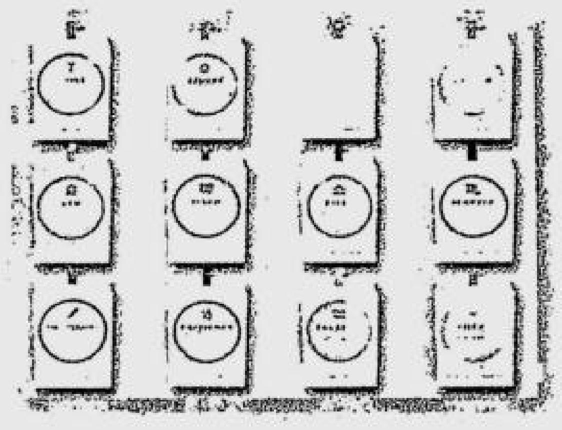
This Valentine's, visit a place that soothes more than just the heart — Essenses.
A sanctuary where your body's total well-being and inner serenity reside.
Where personal attention to the individual is as important as the
rejuvenation of the mind, body and soul.

Rustan's
MAKATI

Ella Mi kao
Ella Mikao DESIGN
EAU DE TOILETTE
Natural spray Vaporisateur naturel
100 ml
EAU DE TOILETTE
All you need is me
Ella Mikao Design

EAU DE PARFUM
Ella Mi
EAU DE PARFUM
Mi

ESSENCES OF LOVE



TAKE your pick from the varied fragrances that **Essences** at Rustan's offers. On this page are samples of the newest and the trendiest. The color of the season is mauve and it is repeated in the cologne, like the lavender of the irises and lilies-of-the-valley, bluish like forget-me-nots and reminiscent of the brilliant sky on a clear day.

The scents are crisp, cool and linger on like a melody. Uplifting for the spirit and always a gift that is appreciated. A fragrance well-chosen is a memorable Valentine gesture.

What's your sign?

Astrological Aromatherapy

Discover an out-of-this-world experience, a pure revelation of the soul. The **Soular Therapy** brand is new generation of lifestyle products developed to tap into our personal inner workings through the power of scent. We call this "soul illumination" therapy. Experience this soular sensation by enveloping your home and body with heaven-sent fragrances to discover, illuminate and reveal your self to the world.

The celestial bodies of our solar system provide tremendous insight into who we are as individuals. The synchronous positioning of the sun and orbiting planets the moment you are born, determines your astrological characteristics personified by the 12 signs of the zodiac. This cosmic connection is what makes each and every one of us unique.

Based on the ancient wisdom of Astrology and Aromatherapy, Soular Therapy presents a system of exclusive fragrances that enhance the power of each sign.

♈

ARIES ™
Therapy
MAR 21 - APRIL 19
color – red
emanates life-giving energy
and ambition
affirmation - "I initiate"
inspiration
adventure and conquests
element - fire
lively and aggressive
ruling body - mars
stone - ruby
essential oils -
honeysuckle thistle, peppermint

♉

TAURUS ™
Therapy
APRIL 20 - MAY 20
color – pink
emanates tenderness
and affection
affirmation - "I have"
inspiration
prosperity and felicity
element –earth
grounded and controlled
ruling body - Venus
stone - pink topaz
essential oils
ylang-ylang, anise, cardamom

♊

GEMINI ™
Therapy
MAY 21 - JUNE 21
color – yellow
emanates inspiration
and wisdom
affirmation - "I communicate"
inspiration
knowledge and diversity
element – air
cognitive and expressive
ruling body - mercury
stone - golden agate
essential oils
linden, lemon verbena, lily

♋

CANCER™
Therapy
JUNE 22 - JULY 22
color – silver
emanates security
and reflection
affirmation - "I feel"
inspiration
care and protection
element – water
sensitive and intuitive
ruling body - moon
stone - pearl
essential oils
white rose, jasmine, geranium

♌

LEO™
Therapy
JULY 23 - AUG 22
color – orange
emanates warmth
and strength
affirmation - "I create"
inspiration
self-expression and creativity
element - fire
lively and aggressive
ruling body - Sun
stone - citrine
essential oils
orange, cinnamon, lemon

♍

VI RGO ™
Therapy
AUG 23 - SEPT 22
color – dark blue
emanates purism
and refinement
affirmation - "I attend"
inspiration
analytical thought and physical
purity element – earth
grounded and controlled
ruling body - mercury
stone - sapphire
essential oils
sage, wintergreen, pivot

♎

LIBRA ™
Therapy
SEPT 23 - OCT 23
color – green
emanates harmony
and vitality
affirmation - "I balance"
inspiration
beauty and peace
element – air
cognitive and expressive
ruling body - Venus
stone - jade
essential oils
juniper, princess pine, vanilla

♏

SCORPIO™
Therapy
OCT 24 - NOV 21
color - maroon
emanates passion
and power
affirmation - "I control"
inspiration
mystery and intimacy
element – water
sensitive and intuitive
ruling body - Pluto
stone - carnelian
essential oils
geranium, pennyroyal, catmint

♐

SAGITTARIUS™
Therapy
NOV 22 - DEC 21
color - purple
emanates optimism
and higher thought
affirmation - "I philosophize"
inspiration
challenge and personal growth
element - fire
lively and aggressive
ruling body - Jupiter
stone - amethyst
essential oils
bergamot, lime, chestnut

♑

CAPRICORN ™
Therapy
DEC 22 - JAN 19
color - brown
emanates grounding
sensibility and will
affirmation - "I master"
inspiration
achievement and discipline
element – earth
grounded and controlled
ruling body - Saturn
stone - jasper
essential oils
wintergreen, comfrey, patchouli

AQUARIUS™
Therapy
JAN 20 - FEB 18
color - electric blue
emanates free thinking
and clarity
affirmation - "I embrace"
inspiration
universal truth and vision
element - air
cognitive and expressive
ruling body - uranus
stone - aquamarine
essential oils
chamomile, lavender, eucalyptus

PISCES™
Therapy
FEB 19 - MAR 20
color - sea green
emanates compassion
and intuition
affirmation - "I believe"
inspiration
altruism and foresight
element – water
sensitive and intuitive
ruling body - neptune
stone - beryl
essential oils
moss, water lily, fern

What's your scent?

Fragrances

Ella Mikao is the first virtual stylist in the world of perfume. Ella Mikao Design perfumes are "a gentle mixture of exoticism and technology, the fusion of nature and modernism." Her body sprays have a floral, green and fruity signature in a packaging chosen for its aesthetics and rigidity: bamboo.

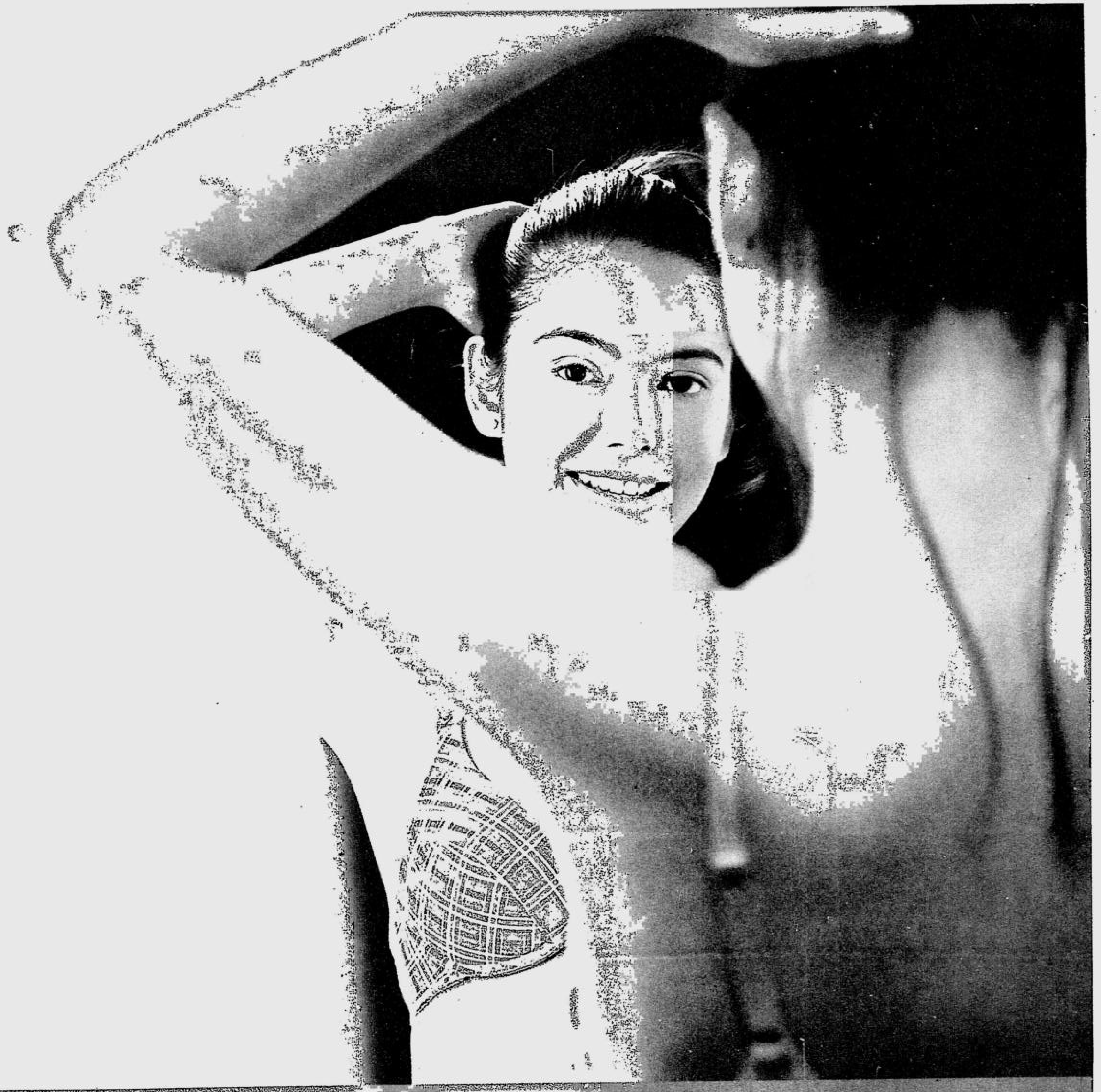
Another fragrance that gives a sense of space is **Axis** by Sense of Space Creations. It is a modern scent for women "using new materials derived from industry, reinventing the world of perfume through a diversity of unconventional objects, and invigorating the industry with unusual decorative materials and original textures taken from Mother Nature."

The strong influence of modernism and avant-garde enhances the very contemporary and expressive blending of the floral, green, marine and fruity notes of Axis.

All these fantastic experiences can be had at **Essenses** at the ground floor of the new annex of **Rustan's** Makati.

AXIS
AXIS
AXIS
AXIS

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"



let's talk

AVON FASHIONS

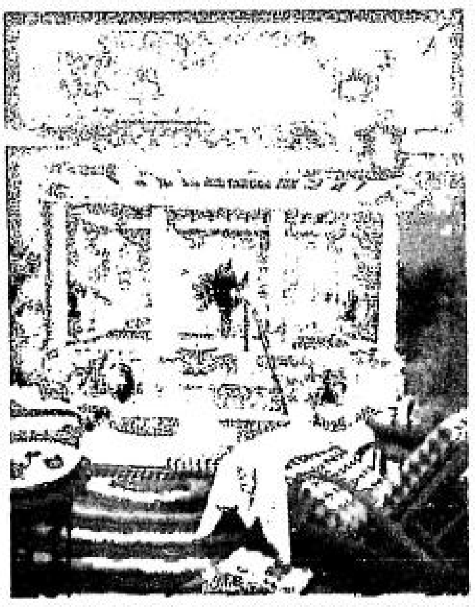
EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR AVON LADY AND AT AVON STORES AT SM MEGAMALL, SOUTHMALL,
ALI MALL AND GLORIETTA. FOR INQUIRIES IN METRO MANILA CALL 864-2900; PROVINCIAL TOLL-FREE 1-800-1-888-2866.
E-MAIL: helpdesk.ph@avon.com

WITH THE MISSY COLLECTION'S NATALIE BRA, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THE MIRROR SAYS "YOU!" WITH THE FUN DESIGN OF PLAID IN LOLLIPOP COLORS OF PINK AND ORANGE, YOU'LL LOOK AND FEEL LIKE A PRINCESS READY TO DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH PRINCE CHARMING. SOUNDS TOO STORYBOOK? PUT IT ON! YOU'LL DEFINITELY BELIEVE THAT FAIRY TALES DO COME TRUE.

A PERSPECTIVE of the Rizal and Hidalgo Towers with the club pool at the Rockwell Center

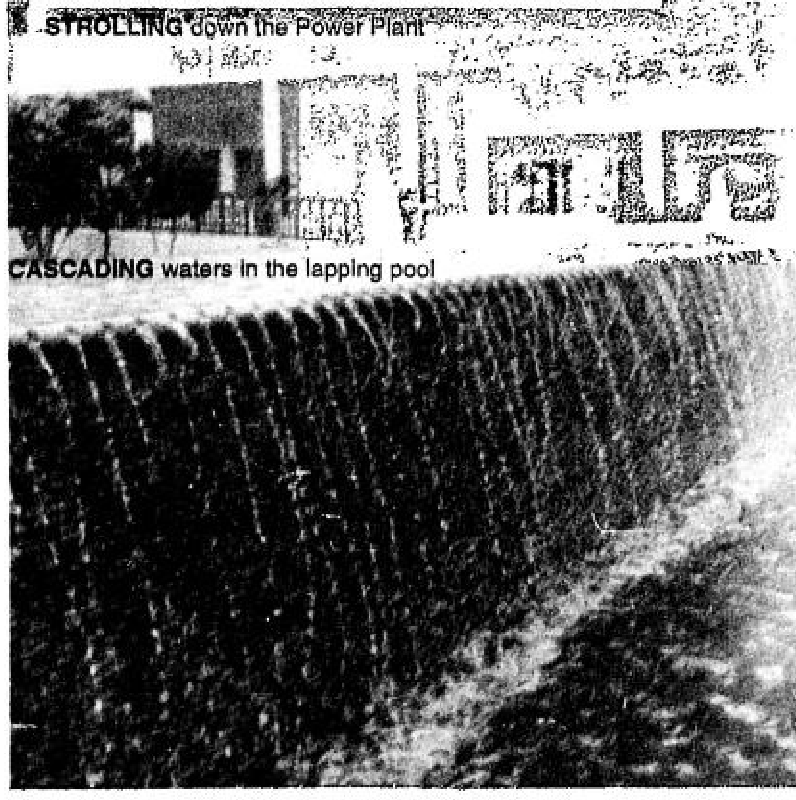
FINE dining at Fernando's

BRUNCH by the pool side



RELAXING spa

STROLLING down the Power Plant



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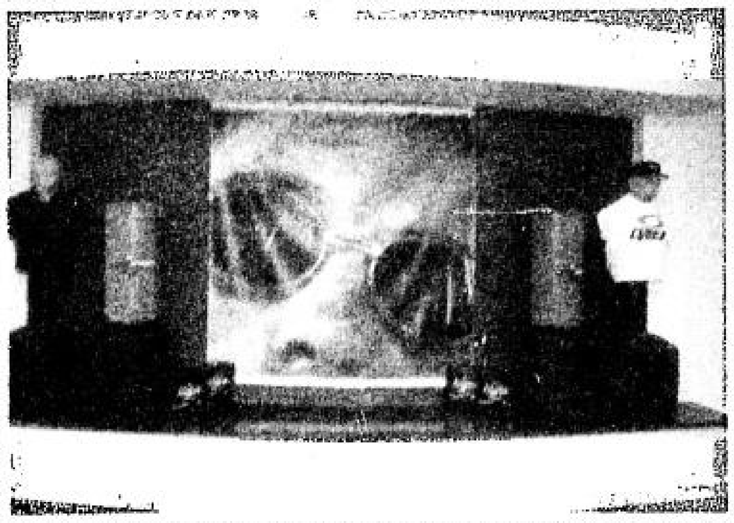
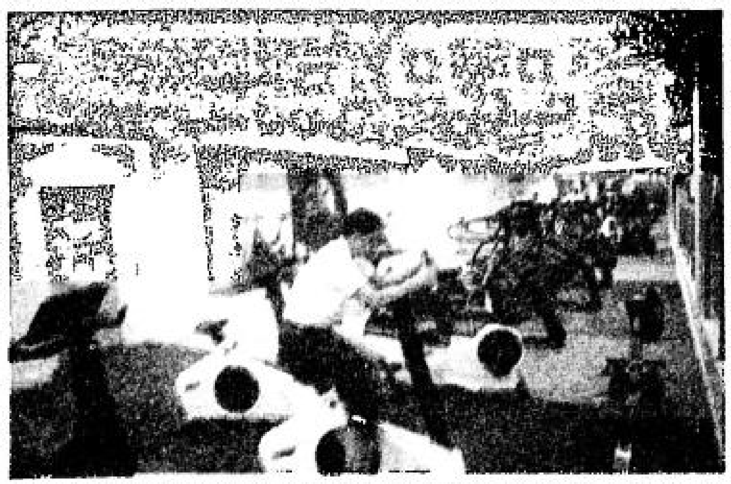
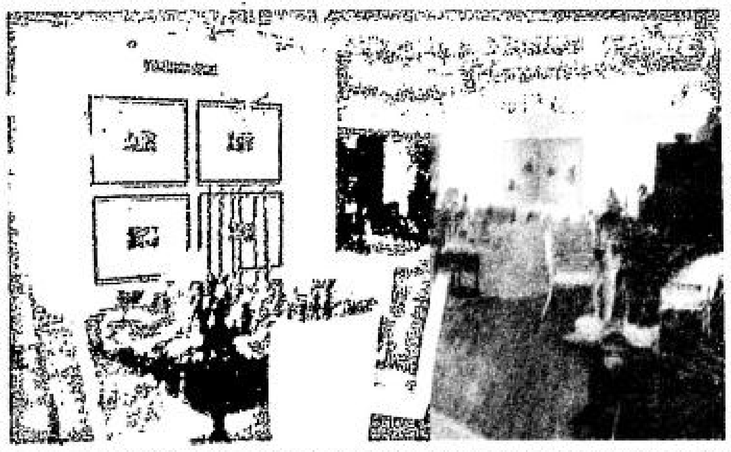


A GYM with pizzaz



TOP-OF-THE-LINE equipment and facilities



A PEEK at one of the apartments

AT THE children's activity center

SANTI'S Delicatessen for gourmet purchases

DINING al fresco at Grassi's

A Lifestyle with Élan at ROCKWELL

THERE is a dash of élan all over the Rockwell Center. It is chic, elegant yet understated, making living there such a pleasure. There is an apartment for everyone of any age and economic strata.

While many perceive **Rockwell** to be only for the very rich, there are units with prices that are most affordable for young newlyweds, families with children and even bachelors with strict budget constraints.

Rockwell is the only residential complex that has a clubhouse with a gym and spa, two restaurants to choose from, and grounds that are immaculately kept, making one forget that you are right in the middle of the hub and buzz of busy Makati. One gets the impression of living in a resort that is not far removed from the city and with all the amenities.

Recently opened is **Power Plant**. A stroll at night is delightful when the side street is made one-way and café tables and umbrellas are laid out on the streets The entire place comes alive with so much youthful energy and so much life, it is contagious. One can have a nice, comfortable dinner at **Via Mare** and if it is full, wait next door with wonderful oysters from their **Oyster Bar.** You can opt for a chilled glass of crisp white wine from **Cork** or stop by **Che** if you like to smoke those rather pungent cigars. A favorite place is **Struan and Tang's** where one can savor good cup of tea served properly and enjoyed with dimsum.

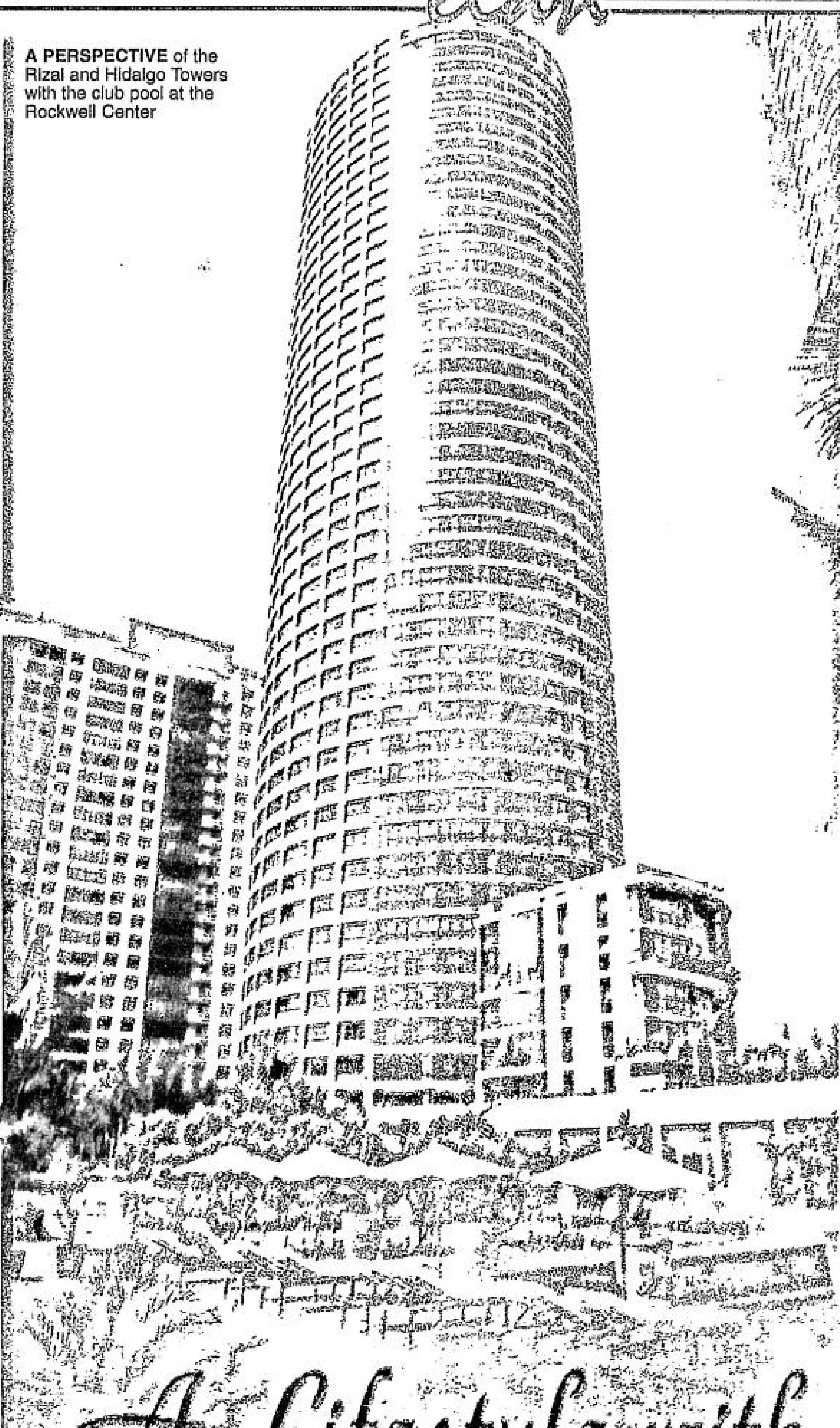
It doesn't stop there. Inside **Power Plant** are endless rows of stalls with a choice of food for all palates and all budgets. Actually, all the outlets are very affordable. There is **Jollibee** and **Nachos** joint, wonderful pastries with hot coffee from **Sugar House**, a wonderful selection of sushis and Japanese food from **Zaifu**. If you like Italian, cousins Kiko Climent and Luisito Senn have an Italian restaurant called **Pazzo** that serves the best homemade gelatos in town. By evening's end, you may want to stop for some liliums or gerberas at **Holland Tulips** or go to **Page One**—that wonderful bookstore—for a good novel or a leisure magazine. If you feel like taking in a movie, simply browse to see what is showing in any of the six theaters that **Power Plant** has. What more can one ask for? These are life's little joyful moments of and at Rockwell, where they make it all happen.

The greatest bonus for the its residents is having **Rustan's Fresh** right there in **Power Plant.** Living up to its name, it has the freshest and choicest produce, with Shitake mushrooms as large as coasters and leafy greens so crisp they crunch as you pick them up. There are colossal onions larger than a man's clenched fist and the choicest fruits like sweet persimmons from China and sampaloc from Bangkok. Fresh catches of fish, shrimps, and even lobster and abalone make meal preparation an adventure.

This is a testimonial from several people that truly enjoy this alternative lifestyle that **Rockwell** offers. One resident says, "My husband and I like to entertain. The rigors of life have left me with dwindling energy to spend time in the kitchen and train household help. Now when we entertain, we have drinks at our apartment, with appetizers still prepared by me, but cooking is greatly reduced. We cross the landscaped area, pass the cascading waters of the pool and dine in style without any fuss in any of the two restaurants of the club. For fine dining, there is **Fernando's** and for more casual fare, we go to the **Palm Grove**. I enjoy myself at our dinners now and find that life is so much simpler."

It is easy to catch a glimpse of this lifestyle. Better still, have a taste of it. **Rockwell Land's** big boss **Tong Padilla** says there are still a limited number of units left. You can see him at the Rockwell Center Sales Office at working hours. You can also call 890-6888 for more information.

FINE dining at Fernando's



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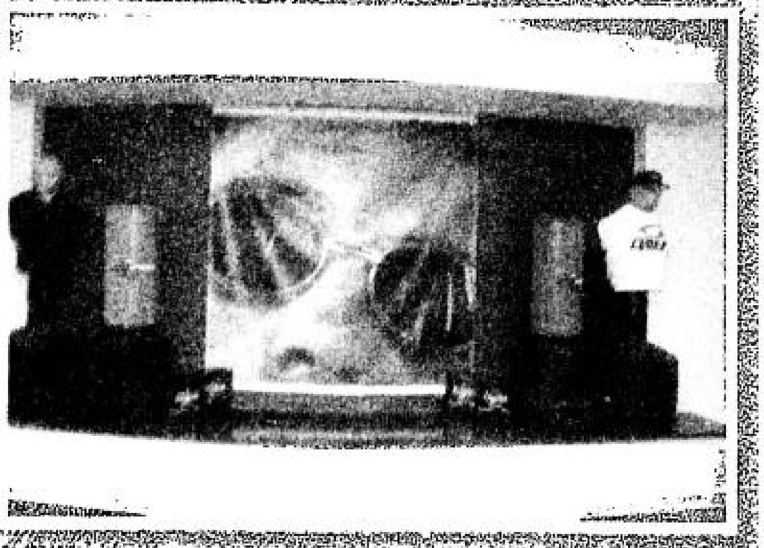

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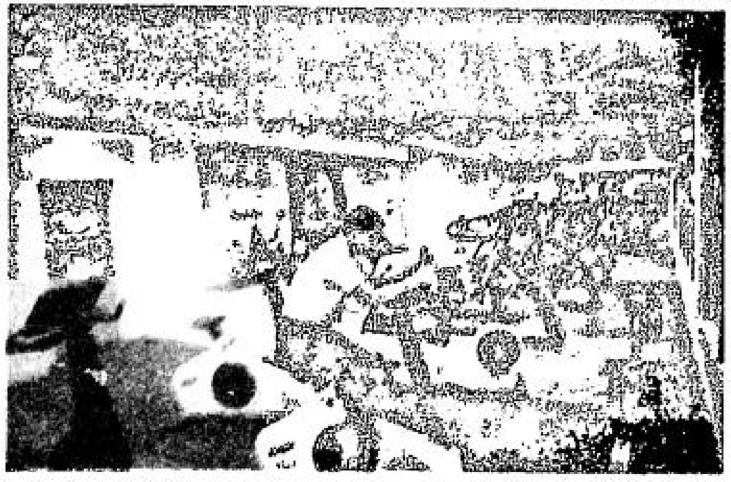

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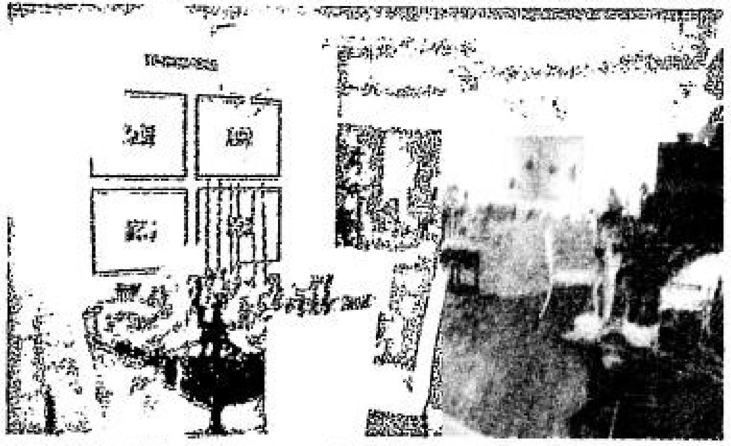

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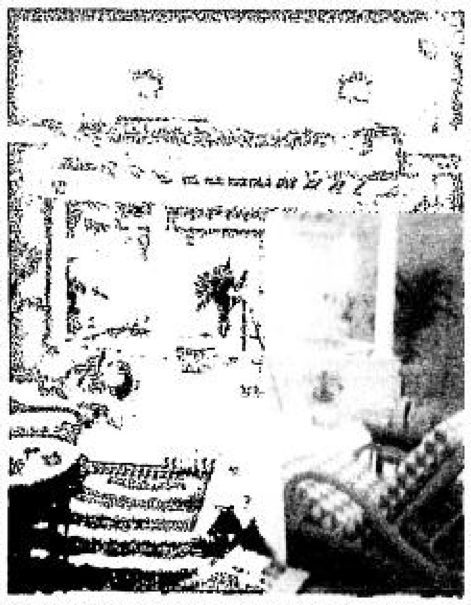

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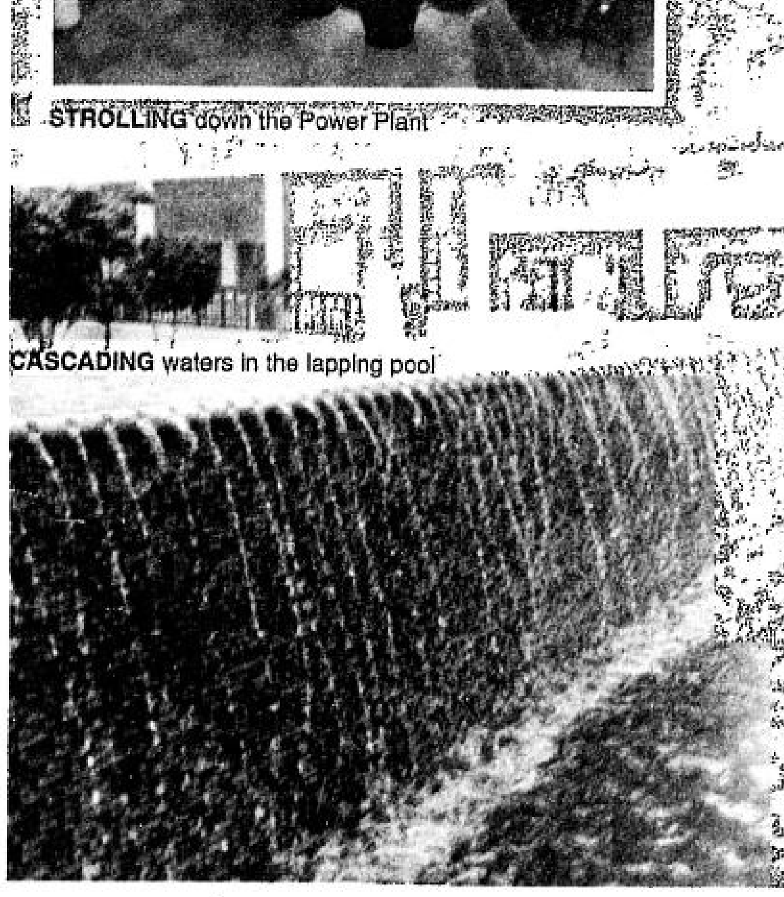

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AT THE children's activity center

SANTI'S Delicatessen for gourmet purchases

DINING al fresco at Grassi's

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION MADE MORE TASTEFUL.

Be seen at the Power Plant
on Valentine's.

Be invigorated by a multitude of exotic blooms
that's sure to make any heart swoon.
The Power Plant Flower Market
at the North Court Feb. 10 - 14

Be serenaded in a candlelit dinner
complete with wine and roses.
All at the Concourse Level Feb. 10 - 14

Be in love in a night of song
under a canopy of stars.
Candlelit Dinners, Wine, Roses
and a Latin Street Party
at the Power Plant Strip Feb. 14

Then find your way to El Nido.

Spend Valentine's at the Power Plant and win free trips to El Nido, free movie passes to the cinemas or win gifts from various mall stores.

POWER PLANT
AT ROCKWELL
The mall to follow.

From the North on EDSA, turn right at Estrella and go straight. From the South, take Makati Ave., right on P. Burgos St., then right on Kalayaan Ave., and go straight.
Open Mondays-Thursdays 10 am-9 pm, Fridays-Sundays 10 am-10 pm.

Lifestyle Magazine For The Home Now In The Market

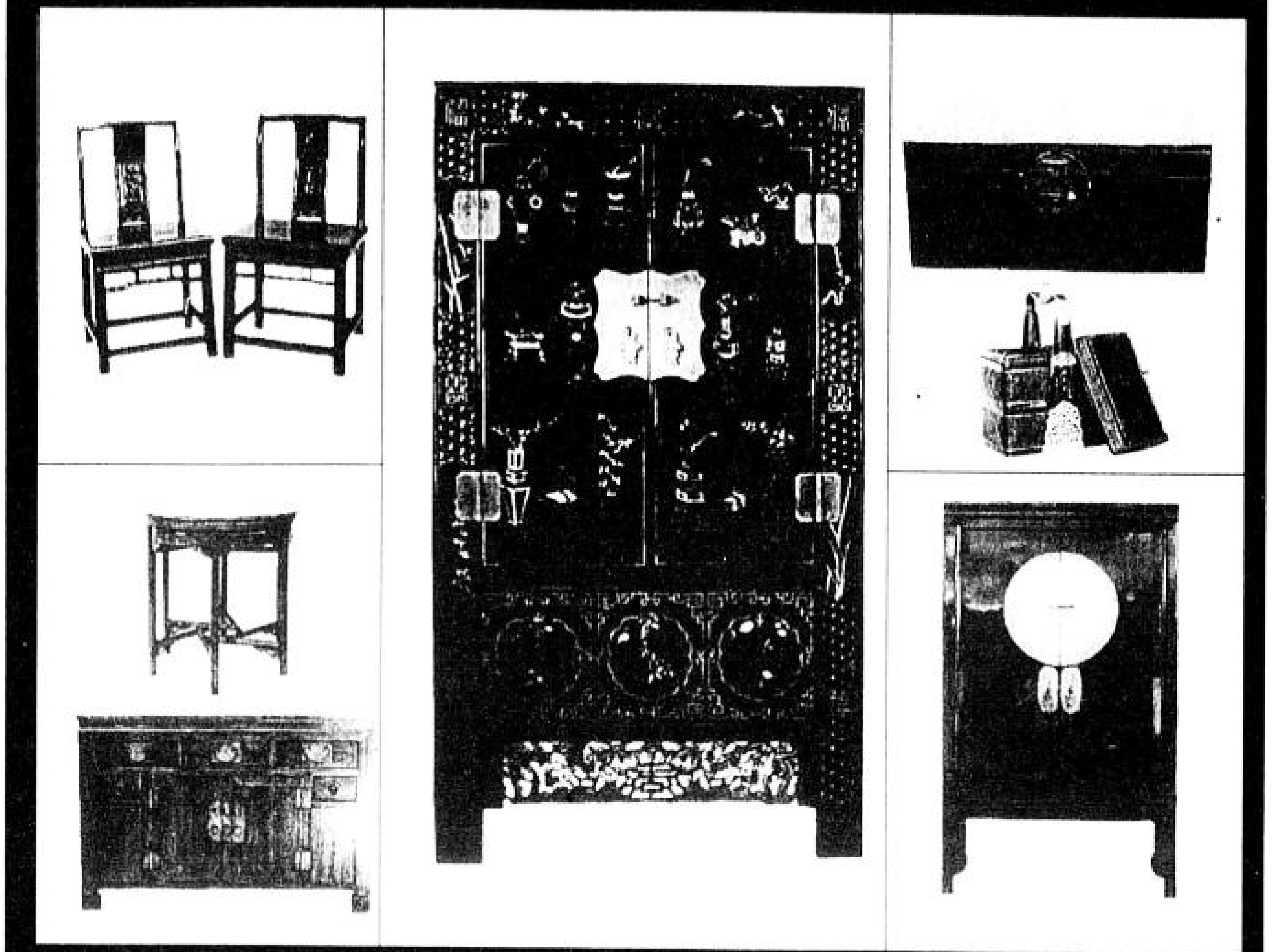
FEEL the need for some change in your home environment? Need some tips on how to redecorate and accessorize your personal space? My Home—the ultimate lifestyle magazine for the modern homeowner—will give you all these and more.

The first magazine of its kind in the country, My Home, distinctly caters to the discriminating taste of the Filipino as it features picturesque and stylish homes in the Philippine setting today. It also provides numerous home enhancement suggestions to inspire you to redecorate and reorganize for a more rejuvenating lifestyle. My Home will surely bring out the creative expression of your personal style.

For the maiden issue, My Home features eight great homes and gardens of celebrities, artists and private individuals alike, which include the following: VIP home of singer/host/actress Agot Isidro; city homes featuring picture perfect abodes of modern urbanites; a cozy urban quarters that reflects the fast-paced yuppie lifestyle of its bachelor-owner; Bencab's artistic genius in landscape; and, beach homes designed to offer complete relaxation amidst eclectic settings.

Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, partners with Mega Magazine Publishing, Inc. (MMPI) in this endeavor to help make beautiful lifestyles happen to you. Through My Home, Earth+Style intends to uplift the quality of life of the modern Filipino by providing design ideas that would help create an elegant, tranquil and comfortable home environment for the Filipino family.

My Home is the latest addition to MMPI's roster of publications, which include Mega, Meg, Forward, Family Reader, Bluprint and Mega Style Annual. My Home is available bi-monthly for P125 in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide. For subscriptions, call MPPI at 631-2859 or 633-3884.



AUCTION
tomorrow 11th February 2001 at 2.30pm

PREVIEWING
Saturday 10 February 10.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday 11 February 10.00am - 2.00pm
at
The Tomlinson Collection
40 Jupiter Street cor Paseo de Roxas Avenue
Bel-Air Village, Makati Tel: 890 9302

All About Manners

BY CONCHITINA SEVILLA BERNARDO

Teen Etiquette

IN response to our reader **Ingrid Nieto's** e-mail we are dedicating this Valentine issue to the teenagers out there. It is a special time in their lives and it would be so much more memorable and meaningful if it is flavored with niceties and amenities.

Ingrid Nieto writes:

Good day! My name is Ingrid Nieto. I have been an avid reader of your column and to tell, it has been a great help. I also have taken social graces lessons and I would like to share what I have observed. I have noticed that today's generation, (particularly the teenagers,) is rarely well mannered and some are rude. I, too, am a teenager and I would like for the others to be refined. Teenagers are not interested in formal dinners and other "grown-up" events. What I would like to share are the common situations that teenagers go through like dating, you know, like curfews and who should call whom. Would you like me to do so?

Élan: We would be delighted for any contributions that any reader would like to send in. We welcome Ingrid's input with much enthusiasm and invite her and others to write us at the email address at the bottom of this article.

From Lito Rebullida:

Q: What do I do when the parents of the girl that I am interested in ask to see me? I really am not thinking of marriage. All I want to do is date their daughter. I do not think that I should be subjected to an interview. I really would like to know what you think.

A: Meet the parents. They probably just want to get to know you and to find out more about the boy their daughter is dating. Make sure that you go well shaven and well groomed. You don't have to say that you do not want to marry her. Just say that you appreciate her friendship. It is customary for a young man to meet the parents of the girl he wants to date. I think they just want to tell you that their daughter is special to them. It is quite a nice custom and you should agree.

From Menchie Teopaco:

Q: My boyfriend gives me such lousy gifts for Valentine's. Is it all right if I tell him so? I also would like to change a bracelet he gave me and I don't know if I should.

A: Do not tell him his gifts are lousy. It will offend him. You may exchange the bracelet and tell him that you did so because it was too large or too small. Don't tell him it was ugly.

From Lita Beatrice:

Q: I would like to invite my boyfriend as a gesture of love for Valentine. He always spends for me and I would like to do the inviting and the paying this time.

A: This is quite acceptable. He may even appreciate it. Just give your credit card or make arrangements with the headwaiter without him seeing you. When the dinner is done, make a pretext of going to powder your nose, and settle the bill out of his sight. When you return to the table, just wish him Happy Valentine's.

From Kiko de los Reyes:

Q: They keep telling me that I should shake hands when introduced. Others tell me to wait. What do I really do?

A: When a young woman is introduced to you, wait for her to extend her hand. The reason for that, is a lady may refuse an extended hand. A gentleman never refuses a handshake. A note to the ladies. When you extend your hand, be sure you have eye contact. Smile and just say "hi," "hello" or "how do you do?" Never refuse a hand, it is like slapping a man.

From Itos:

Q: If I would rather not go out on Valentine's Day but my girl friend expects it, what do you suggest?

A: As early as now, four days to Valentine's Day, talk about what you both want and make a compromise. There is nothing like talking it out to so that it becomes a truly memorable day.

From Jambi Santos:

Q: Flowers cost so much and jewelry is out of my league. What can I send my girl friend?

A: Stuffed toys are always a winner with young girls. Give her a cuddly stuffed animal and it will last longer and probably cost less than flowers and jewelry.

From Micaela Singson:

Q: Is it all right for me to retouch my make-up at the dinner table?

A: It is acceptable for you to dab a little powder on your nose and to refresh your lipstick. More than that, it is best to retire to the ladies'room.

(Please continue to send your e-mail to conchitina@pacific.net.ph *or* cbernardo@inquirer.com.ph*)*

RETOUCHING make-up

HAVE a wonderful Valentine!

LOVE IS LAVENDER

THIS Valentine, shed the red and use mauve. It is the color of the year. There is something distinctly seductive about the color purple. It has a rich, royal look. It does not glare at you, nor arrest your senses. Mauve, the lightest of the violets is very gentle and caresses the senses. Deep purple, like the tone of aubergine (eggplant) is earthy and womanly. Not to leave out, very slimming. You can wear bright blue violets like the delphiniums on the floral arrangement. Accent violet with red or yellow and you have a palate reminiscent of a Renoir painting. Wear with touches of gold and sit among throw pillows of brocade in an ornate baroque room. Remember that deep purple is the color of royalty. It is also the color of love. On Valentine's Day, dare to be different and stand out in mauve, purple and lavender. A true fashion statement!

INSTEAD of the usual red roses, send instead a bouquet of lavender flowers. The yellow carnations blend beautifully with lavender delphinium, softened with light pink roses make a posy that speaks of love and sunshine.

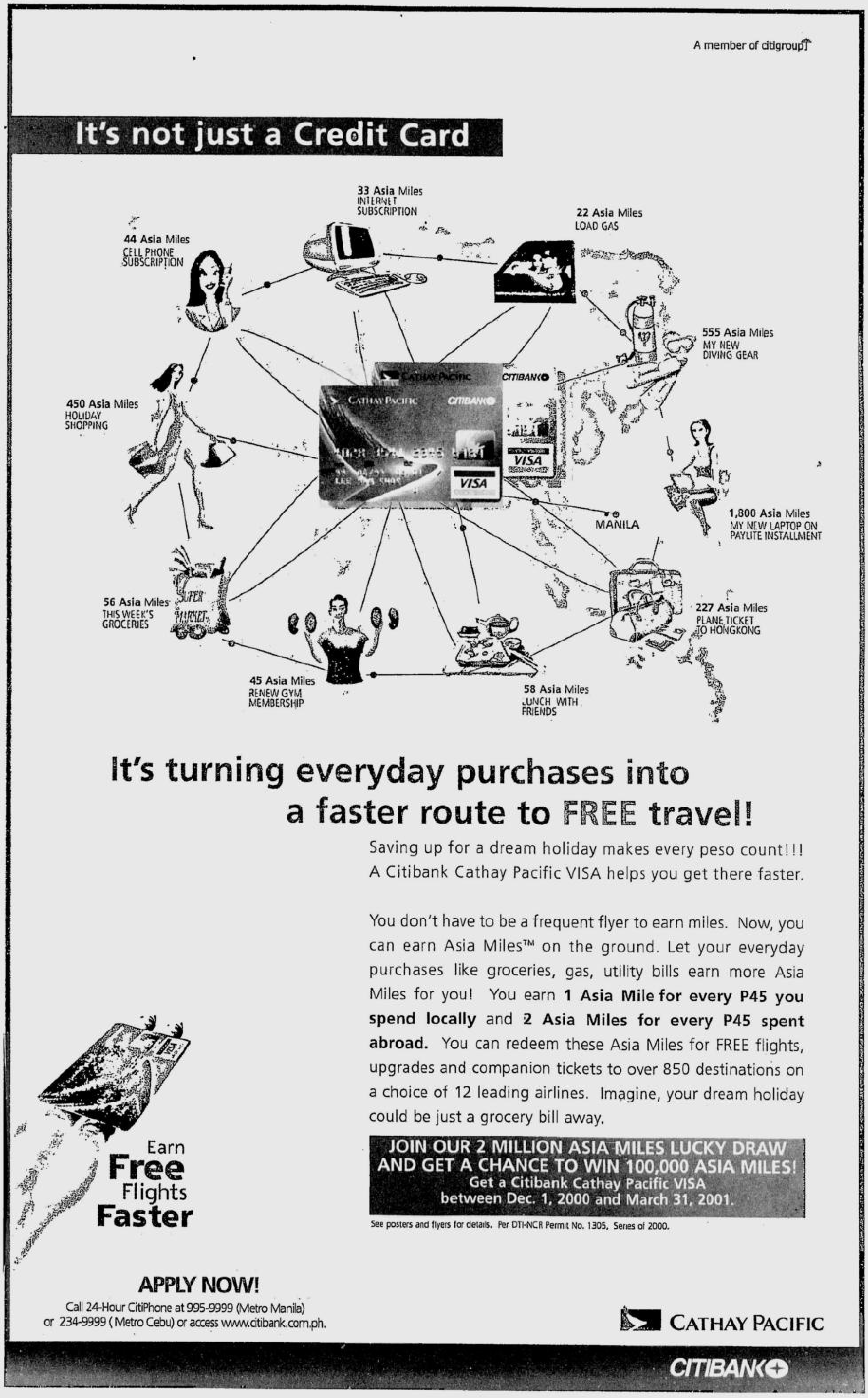
ANY little girl would love a rich velvet violet dress with mauve tulle and matching hat and posy.

LOOK royally elegant with a skirt of rich aubergine velvet. Wear with brocade slippers for a new and contemporary look.

WANT to be a little outlandish? Why not violet tights against gleaming leather boots?

LOUIS VUITTON

AN OUTFIT would be outstanding with just a touch of violet accent in the shoes and bag.



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"Who said this only happens in the movies?"
D O L C
let's talk

MOVIE MAGIC IT'S NOT. I'M MAKING MY OWN. MAGIC WITH THE CITRUS, FLORAL SCENT OF DOLCE AURA. MIX TOGETHER NATURE'S MOST ROMANTIC SCENTS FROM TANGERINES TO ROSES TO SANDALWOOD, AND WHAT YOU GET IS A FRAGRANCE SO INVITING YOU CAN'T BLAME US FOR DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY. DOLCE AURA. IT'S WHERE ROMANCE LIVES.

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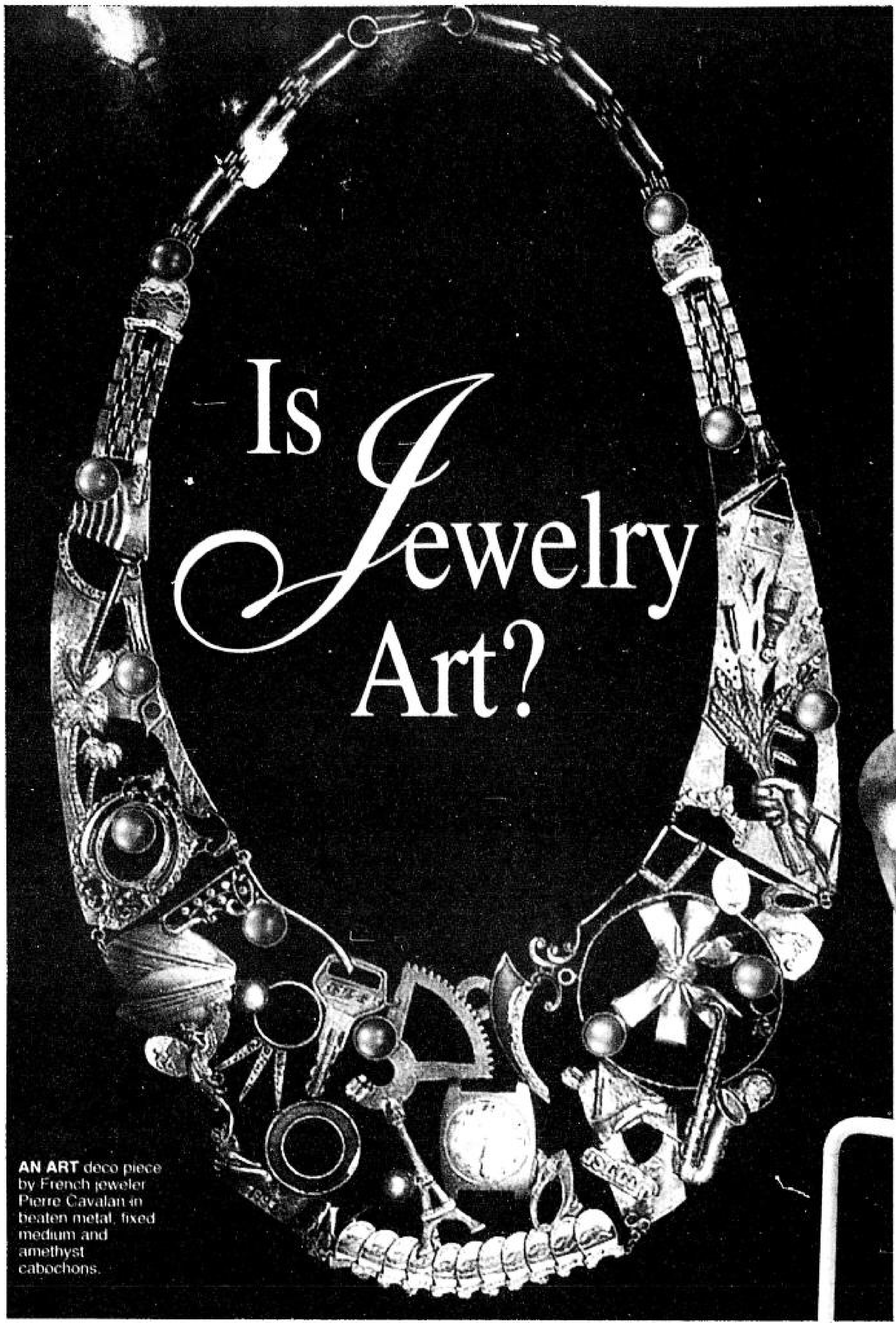
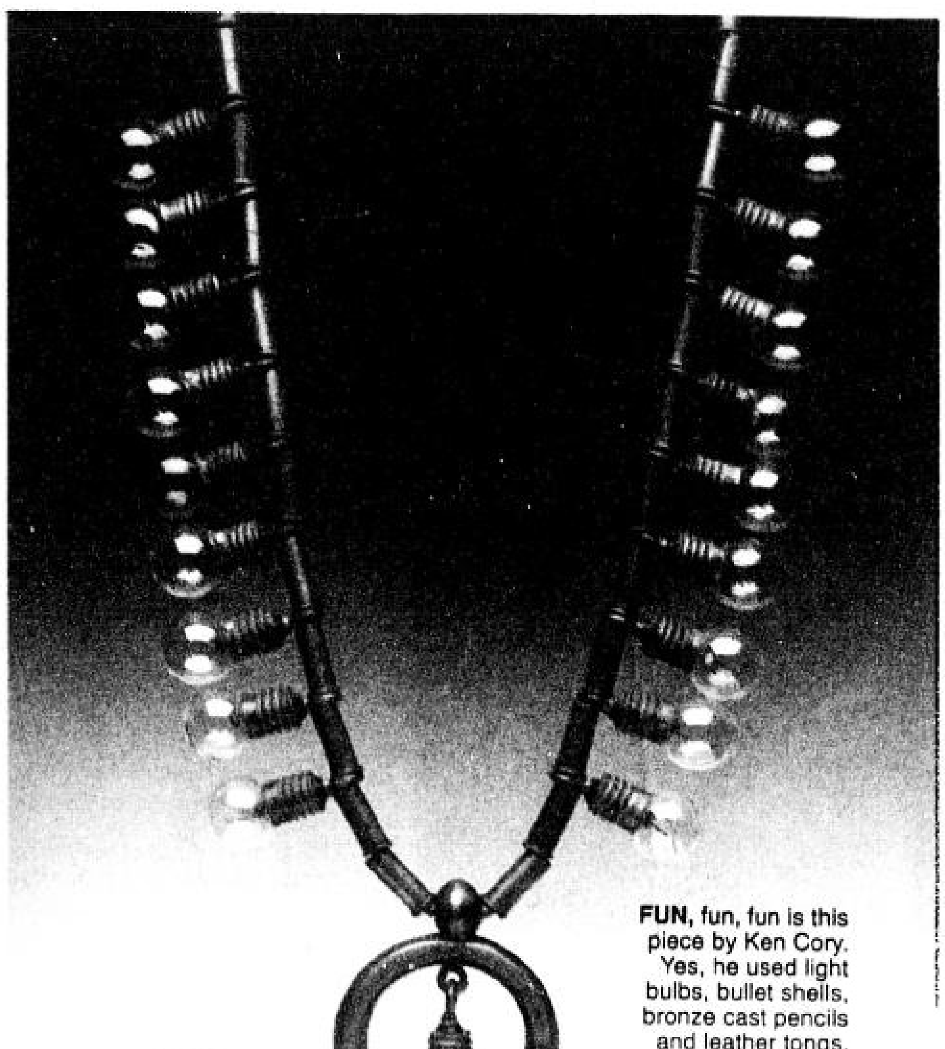
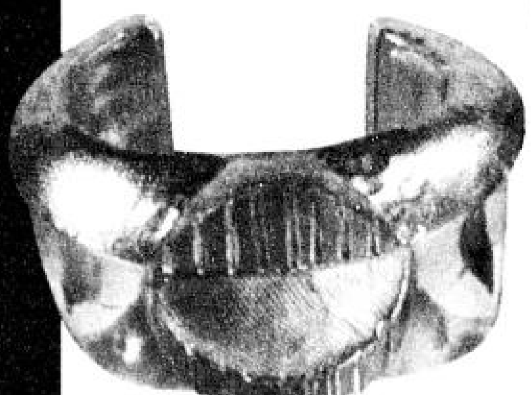


Is Jewelry Art?

AN ART deco piece by French jeweler Pierre Cavalan in beaten metal, fixed medium and amethyst cabochons.



FUN, fun, fun is this piece by Ken Cory. Yes, he used light bulbs, bullet shells, bronze cast pencils and leather tongs.



MADE from Lucite this bracelet (left) shimmers in 24k gold leaf snake skin design. Can be worn for casual wear, but would look spectacular with a black cocktail dress.

WHO can resist this geometric ring by Germany's Claus Bury. Made with 24k gold and cupped with enamel studded with semi-precious stones.

ULTRA modern neckpiece of Acrylic (bottom), gold-filled wire, mother of pearl and a single cultured pearl by Alice Klein.

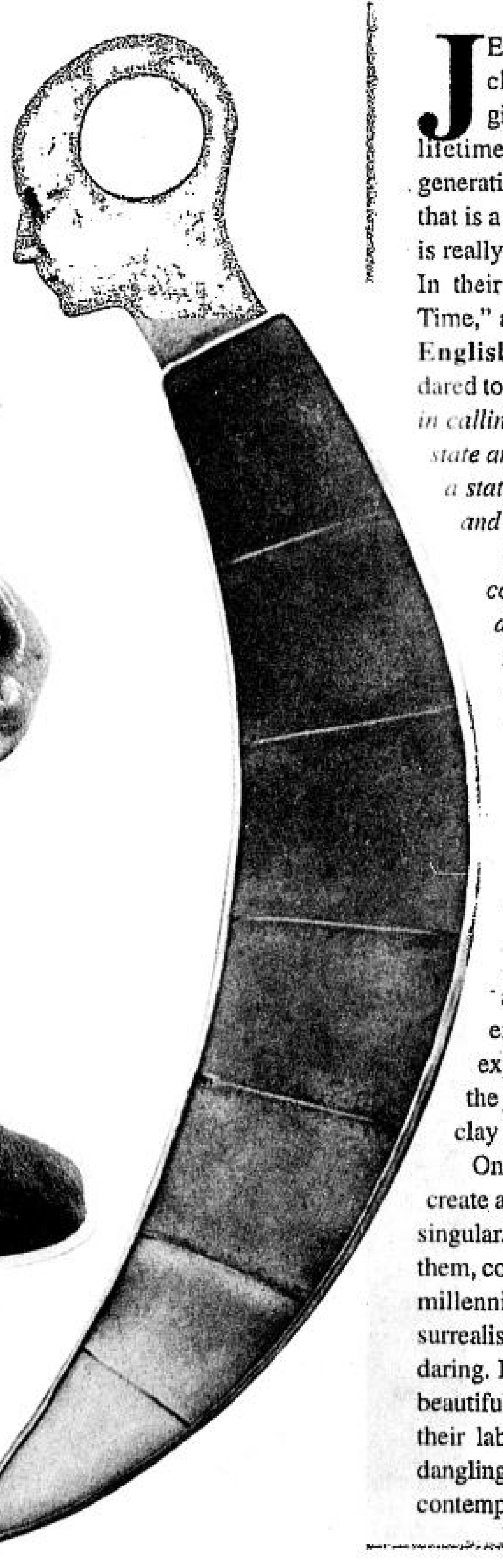
JEWELRY is always a cherished Valentine gift to be kept for a lifetime and passed on to generations, like an art piece that is a family heirloom. But it is really an art piece?

In their book "Jewelry of our Time," authors **Helen W. Drutt English** and **Peter Dormer** dared to state *"there is a problem in calling jewelry art, which will state and then set it aside. The term 'art' confers a status upon an object that is currently higher and different from the status of craft or design. That is to say, the major art institutions, collectors and critics who run the art world do not, whatever the rest of us might claim, regard jewelry as an art in the same way as a painting or a sculpture. When we say that jewelry is as art, we are simply stating that the jewelers now have the same expectations and claim the same freedom of subject matter and the same relationship with their work that can be observed in other art-like activities."*

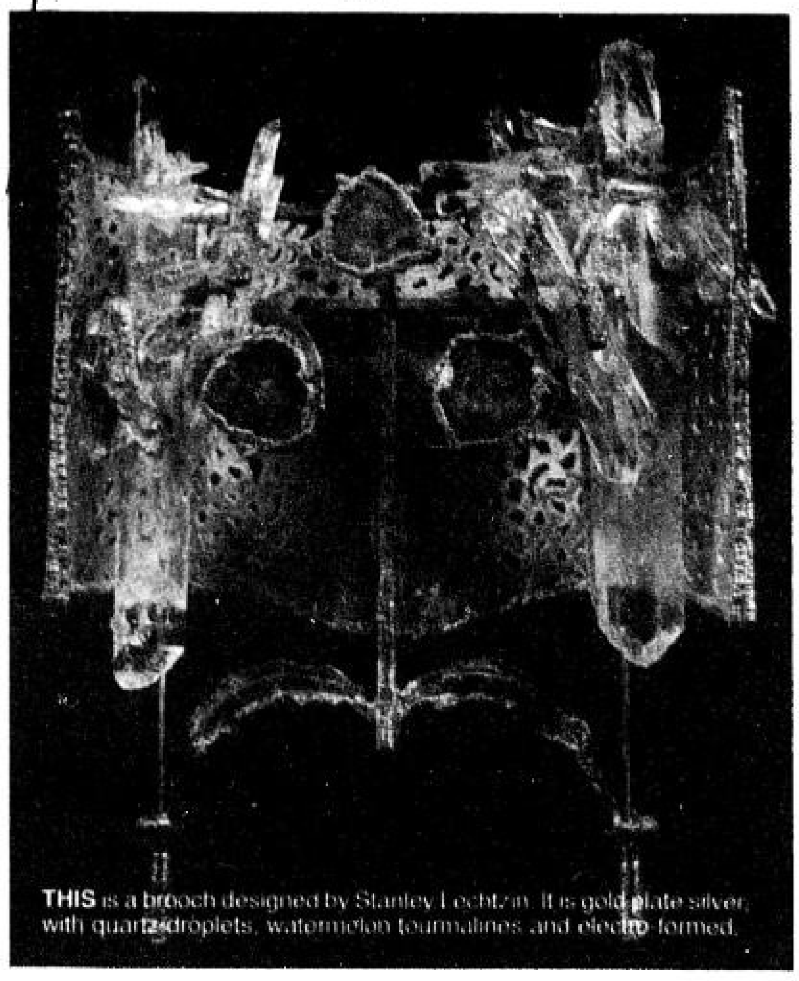
These perfectly breathtaking pieces of jewelry taken from their book— definitely a must-have in any library—simply emphasize that jewelry is as much as expression of the soul and the creativity of the jeweler, as the canvas is to the painter and clay is to the sculptor.

One truly outstanding piece of jewelry can create a look that is both fashionable, exciting and singular. Depending on where and how you wear them, contemporary or modern jewelry evokes this millennium with a style that is rustic, almost surrealistic, replete with creativity, modernism and daring. In the opinion of most, it is like wearing a beautiful art piece around their necks, pinned to their labels, encircling their wrists or finger and dangling from their ears. The wonderful thing about contemporary jewelry is that they are lots of fun!

A COMMISSIONED work by Dutch national Gijs Bakker (bottom), this bather is a brooch made from PVC laminate photograph, and the streaming water is cut round diamonds.



APTLY called "The Man on the Moon," this whimsical brooch is crafted from found objects, silver, copper, enamel and mother of pearl. It is created by American Elisabeth Garrison.



THIS is a brooch designed by Stanley Lechtzin. It is gold plate silver, with quartz droplets, watermelon tourmalines and electro-formed.

WHAT a neckpiece! Made from birchwood and painted in old gold, a piece like this makes a fashion statement that is singular.

LORNA & Luigi Tabuena

Valentine Gourmet

Lorna Tabuena shares with us a Valentine meal that she has planned for husband **Luigi.** She loves to cook and preparing a meal has always been an adventure of sorts for Lorna. Both she and her husband love travelling and their many sojourns abroad have made their taste in food very cosmopolitan and varied. Experimenting with herbs and sauces to awaken the taste buds has always been challenging for **Lorna**. She plans family meals carefully and selectively. Careful not to repeat a dish too often but noting her family's preferences, **Lorna** has become, at least in her family's eyes, a true chef. She loves to share her recipes and here is a special she has whipped up for Valentine with her favorite vegetable spinach, green, leafy and rich in iron.

For Starters:

Baby Spinach and Prosciutto Salad

12 slices prosciutto
6 Roma tomatoes, halved
olive oil
cracked black pepper
200 g. (6 1/2 oz) baby spinach leaves
200 g (6 1/2 oz) fresh asparagus, blanched*
1/2 cup parmesan cheese shavings
dressing
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/4 cup basil leaves, shredded
2 teaspoons brown sugar

Procedure

1. Place prosciutto and tomatoes. Cut side up on a baking dish and sprinkle with olive oil and pepper.

2. Bake at 180C (350F) for 25 minutes or until prosciutto is crisp and tomatoes are soft.

3. Arrange spinach and asparagus on serving plates. Top with tomatoes, prosciutto and parmesan.

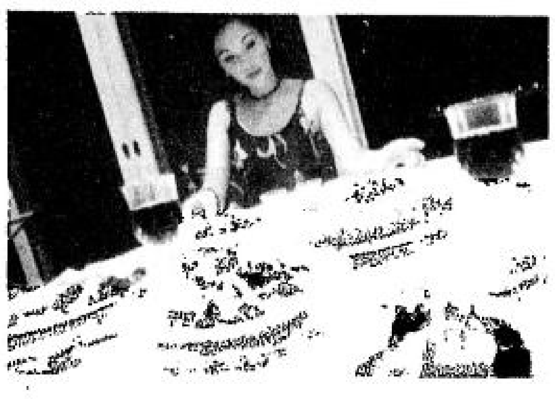
4. To make dressing, combine olive oil, lemon juice, basil and sugar, and pour over salad. Serves 4.

For the Entrée:

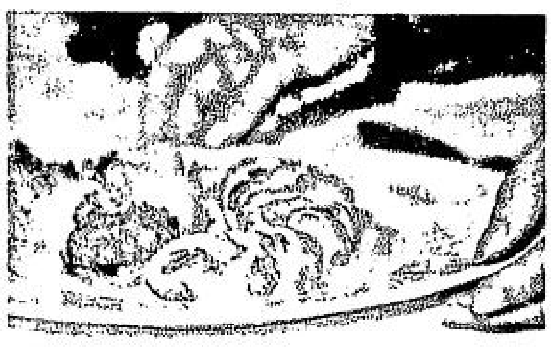
Chicken Rolls in Mushroom Sauce

2 large whole chicken breasts
4 slices Swiss cheese
4 spinach leaves
1/4 each teaspoon salt and pepper
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 can (10 3/4 ounces, 305 grams) condensed cream of mushroom soup
1/2 cup water

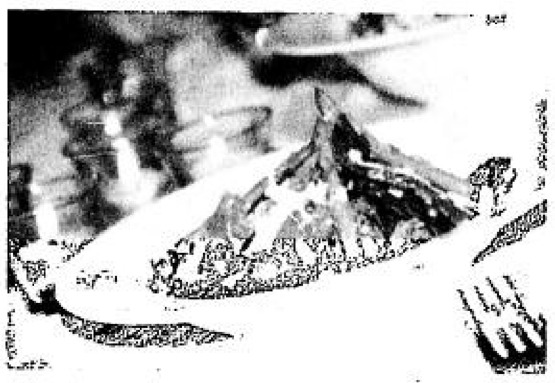
Procedure:
1. Cut chicken breast in half.
2. Place between two pieces of plastic wrap. Pound with meat pounder to ¼ inch (7 mm) thickness, being careful, do not tear meat.
3. Place a slice of cheese and spinach leaf onto chicken breast. Roll up and secure with a toothpick.
4. Combine salt and pepper and flour. Coat rolled chicken with flour.
5. In skillet, heat three tablespoons oil over medium. Add rolled chicken. Cook until all sides are slightly browned.
6. Place chicken into a microwave safe dish. Pour condensed cream of mushroom soup and 1/2 cup of water. Cover with plastic wrap. Cook on full power high (9) for five to six minutes. Allow to cool five minutes before serving. Remove toothpicks.



LORNA in front of her Valentine Table



DELECTABLE chicken entrée



HEARTY appetizer

See Yourself On Your Cake And Eat It Too!

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY EDNA REYNOSO ANTON

TO Baguio's family of four generations of excellent bakers, coming up with a mouthwatering bestseller is a cinch. Trying to cope with customer demands is the harder part since their shop, the baker's circle cum coffee shop at **Nevada Square** is practically a family-run affair.

Every product on display is a labor of love by siblings **Butch, Marie** and **Gigi Luga.** During peak season like Valentine's Day, the home kitchen cavalry comes to the rescue. Extra pairs of hands are provided by their mom and mentor, **Lita**—a widow of PMA graduate **Col. Isagani Luga,** who is now married to American retiree, **Dick Teel**—and **Marie's** 18-year-old daughter **Gaylee,** who was baking cakes and making marzipan flowers while her playmates were busy mass producing mud pies.

Until they formally opened their bakeshop September of last year, friends and acquaintances made a beeline to the **Luga** home the past 30 years to pick up their orders. During her time, their grandmother, the late **Trining Panajon** garnered top awards in fruit and vegetable preservation contests, and the shop now carries her native specialties like corn maja and *suman sa lihia*, together with Lita's to die for cake recipes that she developed through the years.

In 1981, **Marie** was 1st runner up in the White King National Cake Baking contest with her entry, rainbow queen cake. In 1982, she garnered 1st place in the Shakey's Pizza baking contest using **Butch's** recipe, chicken-corn pizza. Baguio residents were disappointed when the three Luga siblings went to foreign shores several years ago to broaden their horizons, and **"Marie's Home Bakeshop"** was put on hold. While in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France, Marie attended seminars and classes on marzipans, tortes, cakes and breads. In the United States, she attended courses in Wilton Method of Cake Decorating and the California Culinary arts academy.

Elder brother **Butch,** who was with the San Francisco police department for 11 years returned to his roots recently to invest in an honest-to-goodness bakeshop expansion, as he strongly believes there's no place like Baguio.

Butch, a good baker whose talent and expertise is the creation of custom-made altars for wedding cakes, brought with him a coveted high tech photo cake projected on sugar paper as seen in the valentine heart strawberry shortcake on this page.

Another grand prizewinner in the family is **Gigi,** whose entry, **Angelic Mango Cake** won her the 1983 White King National Cake Baking Contest. A holder of a master's degree in business management from the University of the Philippines, **Gigi** has extensive hotel sales and catering experiences in Puerto Azul, John Hay, Baguio Country Club and Green Valley Club in the Philippines, as well as in Marriott San Mateo, cathedral hill hotel and holiday inn in San Francisco, California. The last of the siblings to return home and add her talent to the baking pool, **Gigi** also attended seminars in Cake Baking and Decorating at Wilton and art of fondant at sugar and spice while she was abroad for seven years.

EXPRESS-A-CAKE to your loved one this Valentine's Day with a strawberry shortcake topped with a favorite photo made edible by a tedious process that requires time and attention to details.

PRIZE winners all. Siblings Marie, Gigi and Butch Luga inside the Baker's Circle.

MARIE'S helpers, professional bakers David Cuarez and Angie Espanillo.

Romance Brews In This Little Downtown Café

BY FE R. DACUDAO

TUCKED in an arcade corner in downtown Davao is a snug coffee place, **Coffee Tree.** This charming nook in bustling Gov. Duterte St. provides coffee lovers a variety of specialty coffee and pasta or pastries to match. Barely a year old, it enjoys loyal following from its customers—mostly professionals like doctors from nearby Davao Doctors' Hospital, lawyers, expats, guests from neighboring hotels, or simply the steadfast locals. Giving it a cozy Mediterranean atmosphere are the stucco walls and terracotta floor, enhanced by rustic furnishings and well-placed accessories.

Panini, or an Italian sandwich, using homemade *focaccia* bread and pasta with salsa *amaya*, cooked with dried fish and sun-dried tomatoes, are constant favorites of the customers. The soft oven-fresh cinnamon rolls topped with cream are heavenly treats to die for. Habitués swear to the goodness of Mudslide Malt, a cold coffee dessert, and Sandblaster, which features Nestlé Crunch. For Valentine's month, the featured drink is Almond Roca Mocha.

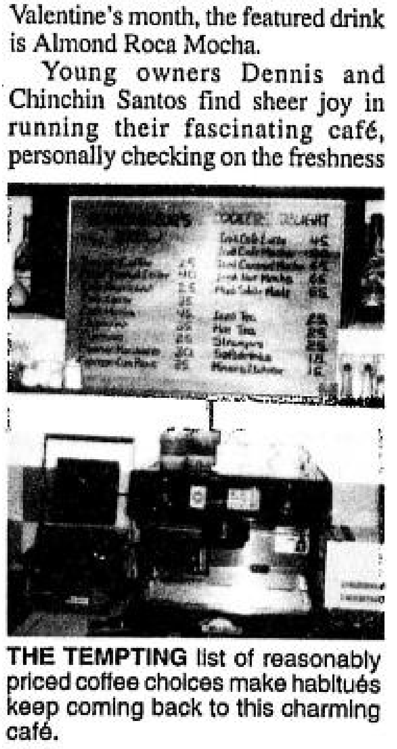
Young owners Dennis and Chinchin Santos find sheer joy in running their fascinating café, personally checking on the freshness of every cup of coffee served and making sure that their customers are having a good time. They take turns in manning the place, which is open from 10 in the morning till midnight.

Romance brews every single day in Coffee Tree but more so on Valentine's Day.

On this memorable day for lovers, Coffee Tree will deviate from its regular menu. As a special treat, they will offer lunch and dinner for a reasonable P300 per person, dessert and brewed coffee included. For reservations, call (082)222-8541.

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

COMFORTABLE leather-finished chairs, subdued lighting from lamps depicting coffee leaves, warm terracotta flooring provide a soothing, romantic ambience.



THE TEMPTING list of reasonably priced coffee choices make habitués keep coming back to this charming café.

PRETTY owner Chinchin Santos personally attends to the freshness of coffee, pastries and pasta served to her customers.

ROMANCE fills the air as young couple Baby and Mitzi Jaldon spend an intimate pre-Valentine date over treats of cappucino and mud slide malt in Davao's Coffee Tree.

Claude Tayag's New Venture

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY VICKY LOPEZ

CLAUDE is an artist well known for his sculptural work in wood. His home and his cuisine have been featured time and again in many books and periodicals. He is interesting because he is constantly evolving in many ways as well as in many mediums.

Claude has often said that as long as he can remember, he knew that he wanted to become an artist. As a young man, his family was in the construction business in Pampanga. He decided to make use of the pool of carpenters that were working out of his home and he created his first bedroom set. His family took notice of his fine designs. They started to request and then, to order his furniture.

Because Claude is an artist, the furniture he created over the years started to take the form of art pieces. Aside from the straight lines of the pieces, Claude used wavy patterns that found expression in his benches, cabinets and wall sculptures. He also used wood in its natural formations. His work was sculptural yet fully functional, emerging to what it is today—furniture art forms.

Still the consummate artist, he emulates Arturo Luz. Who, he says, is not pigeonholed into one medium but excels in diverse mediums. Whether in canvas, wood or food, for Claude, it is the creative intuition that counts. The medium merely changes.

A painter from early youth, he paints in oil or creates serigraph prints. As a chef, he cooks Pampangueño and contemporary cuisine, dishes like Pampanga sushi, using *talaba ng talangka* and *balobalo* or fermented rice. His home in Pampanga, "Bale Datung" is open to the public. By reservation one may delight in a dream meal. The experience alone, that of being in his home, is a feast for all the senses. Today, he markets his foodstuff at Bon Appetite in Rustan's.

Is there no end to this creative energy, I ask? Apparently not. He attributes this to his "driving force," his childhood friend, now his wife and partner, Maryanne Quioc.

Claude says that the marriage gave him a sense of being centered. It has grounded him, making him more productive and open to new ventures. Maryanne gave him direction and the impetus to be more creative and more confused.

Recently, the couple tied up with Larry Cruz of the many bistros and Lori Tan of the many books. Together they revived Larry's former gallery to come up with a different concept in the circle that never sleeps. The new place in town…ABC Gallery at Remedios.

A is for the art—the wall space that is run by Larry. At present, paintings by Anita Magsaysay Ho, Emilio Aguilar Cruz, SYM, Norma Belleza, as well as Claude's serigraphs adorn the walls. The exhibits will change continuously. Larry also runs the coffee shop, appropriately named "Afterwords Café," where freshly brewed coffee, "chocolate eh" or "chocolate ah" is served with all kinds of Filipino merienda.

B is for the books, of Lori Tan's "Filipino Bookstore." Coffee table books such as "La Solidarida," "Piña" by Lourdes Montinola, "Anilao" by Gutsy Tuason, "Palayok" by Doreen Fernandez are among the selection with other books on travel, literature, politics, children's books, etc., which are all Filipino publications by Book Mark.

C is for the crafts, or for Claude. There he displays a vibrant mix of furniture in his identifiable lines. A wavy bench, its wooden grains glimmering in its polish, a beautiful table whose wood shows a natural split, embellished with molave inlays as if it were holding it together. A very modern *belen*, a magnificent chess set. Items like *dikdikans, chocolateras,* clocks and chopping boards are among the many high-end kitchen paraphernalia/art forms that one may purchase.

There at ABC Gallery, one enjoys the flavor of a bygone Manila, sitting on old café chairs, lost in the sound of classical music and the aroma of strong coffee, surrounded by books and delighted by Claude's work. It is a simple pleasure, an escape from these turbulent times into a simpler past, to hope for a brighter future. That for now is worth a billion bucks!

CLASSIC furniture at ABC Gallery

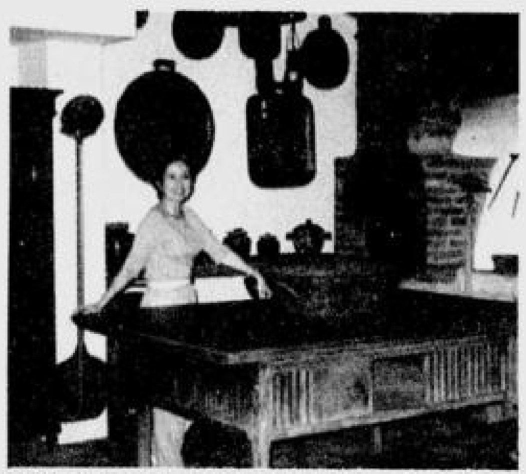
THE MAGIC at Bale Datung.

CLAUDE and Maryanne in their "antique mountain province hut," which is now a studio done in Igorot modern.

CLAUDE opens his doors at "Bale Datung."

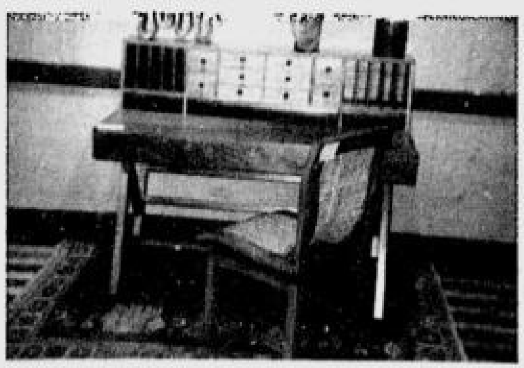
CLAUDE and Maryanne contemplating their "next move," a magnificent chess table set by the artist.

THE COUPLE at the ABC Gallery, "lifestyle section."


THE AUTHOR in the Tayag kitchen at Bale Datung amidst the collection of antique Filipino kitchenware.

READ some good books.

HAVE some coffee.


OR simply take a rest.

Happy Valentine

CLOSE-UP
Love-a-Fair

11am - 8pm
Feb. 3 SM Megamall*
Feb. 9 SM City Manila
Feb 10 SM North EDSA*
Feb. 16 SM Southmall
Feb. 17 SM City Fairview*
Feb. 23 SM City Bacoor
*Watch LIVE Band Concert, 4pm

Feb. 14 SM Centerpoint 1pm - 5pm
LIVE Radio Broadcast only.

Cupid Kissing Booth
Meet, greet and pose for a souvenir shot with your favorite screen stars.

Marriage Booth
Walk down the aisle and renew your rites of love.

Jail & Handcuff Booths
Lovebirds are sentenced to an eternity of caged togetherness.

Dance Revo Booth
Dance the day away to the tune and steps of the latest rhythms.

Dedication Booth
Air your lovespeak via our DJ. Receive freebie statio pads, bookmarks and shirts.

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Hearty Pops

Receive free heart lollipops with your single minimum P300 purchase at participating stores.

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Date with a Star

Strut your wit and get a heaven-sent reward. The dating game winner gets a rare chance to spend a Valentine with a celebrity date.

4pm - 6pm
Feb. 10 SM Megamall
Feb. 11 SM City North EDSA
Feb. 14 SM City Manila
Feb. 18 SM City Pampanga

Rhythm & Taste of Love

BLUE NUN

While sipping wine, mall goers are serenaded by a string quartet to the tune of favorite arias and symphonies

11am - 7pm
Feb. 10 MegaStrip SM Megamall
Feb. 11 UGF Eastwing, SM City Manila
Feb. 14 4F Bridgeway SM Megamall
Feb. 16 3F Centermall, SM City North EDSA
Feb. 17 SM Southmall, Activity Center

SM SUPERMALLS

MEGAMALL ▲ CITY NORTH EDSA ▲ SOUTHMALL ▲ CENTERPOINT ▲ SM CITY PAMPANGA ▲ CITY BACOOR ▲ CITY FAIRVIEW ▲ CITY MANILA ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY ILOILO

(L-R) **BETH** Day Romulo, Joan Hubbard, Tessie Campilio

HELLO AGAIN

MUCH-LOVED **Joan Hubbard**, wife of the former US Ambassador **Tom Hubbard**, and **Elena Colomé**, wife of the former Ambassador of Spain were both in town for a brief visit. Good friend **Josie Sy** entertained an intimate lunch at her sprawling and well appointed home in Ayala Alabang. Always the impeccable hostess **Josie** had a simple, hearty luncheon fare of squash soup,. crabmeat omelet on the half shell with a crisp green salad. For dessert sweet Guimaras mangoes with an exotic side dish of rice in coconut milk.

It was, as always, a treat to sit in **Josie's** beautifully laid out table full of the orchids that she grows in her farm in Batangas. It was also a time to exchange pleasantries with **Joan** and **Elena** who now consider the Philippines their home away from home. **Elena's** daughter **Marit** is married to young taipan, **Tito Yuchengco** and she expects a son by next month.

ELENA Colomé and former Ambassador to Spain Isabel Caro Wilson.

(L-R) **MENCHU** Concepcion, Marlien Espiritu, and Paz Yuchengco

HOSTESS, Tessie Sy (seated from left) Pilina Rocha, and Tessiie Luz

Adieu Mr. Ambassadors

Jorge and **Stella Araneta** hosted a dinner to bid farewell to their Excellencies Ambassador of Mexico **Enrique Michel** and the Ambassador of Portugal **Jaoa Henrique Araujo Brito Camara** and their wives. The Trattoria Uno at the Ali Mall served Portuguese food that evening cooked by a young man from Portugal who spent time in Boracay and will now open a Portuguese restaurant in Cubao.

PITOY Moreno and Josie Lichauco

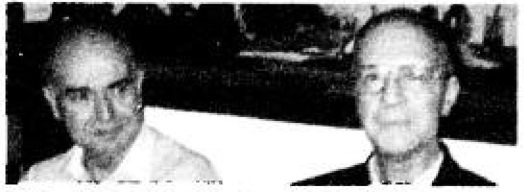
(L-R) **CARLOS** Ramirez, CDA Ramon Domingo of Cuba, and H.E. Ambassador Milena Santana-Ramirez of Venezuela.

AMAYA Michel

JORGE Araneta, H.E.Ambassador Carmen Lynam, H.E. Amb.Julio Cardenas Velarde of Peru.

Stella Araneta, H.E. Ambassador Enrique Michel and Jorge Araneta.

MERCEDES Alonso of Cuba (L) and Liv Brito Camara of Portugal.


CDA Carlos Augusto Louriero de Carvalho of Brazil (left) and H.E.Amb. Jaoa Henrique Arujo Brito Camara of Portugal

(L-R) **NENE** Quimson, Amaya Michel and Stella Araneta.

A Tribute to Kay

Madame Kay Siazon was the guest of honor in a lunch hosted by the Ambassadors' spouses, Lady Ambassadors and the other lady members of the diplomatic corps at the ballroom of the Dusit Hotel in Makati. That afternoon **Madame Siazon** took off for the United States with her husband former Secretary of Foreign Affairs **Domingo Siazon Jr.** who will undergo a series of medical check ups in Stanford. To both of them Godspeed and best wishes.

MADAME Siazon (5th from the left) with thhe Ambassadors' spouses.

MRS. SIAZON with lady Ambassadors and members of the DFA.

clearing up the DERMATOLOGY vs. COSMETOLOGY confusion

Hard times sometimes call for hard solutions. But only if that solution will benefit you effectively for both the short and long term.

The skin care industry is not exempt from the effects of the current economy. Despite the fact that a lot of people deem professional skin care as a necessity, some others trade in the genuine article for the cheaper alternative.

Cosmetology answers a basic need for the beauty-conscious. However, it is not at par with the scientific and medical training provided by Dermatology.

But first, what really is the basic difference between Cosmetology and Dermatology?

Cosmetics run the gamut from eye shadow to deodorant sprays. When FDA surveyed 1,687 consumers ages 14 and older in 1994 about their use of cosmetics, many of the responses pertained to consumer perceptions about cosmetic labeling claims. For example, many said they expect a product to prevent or show the formulation for wrinkles if it makes such a claim on its packaging. And nearly half of those surveyed felt that a product claiming to be "natural" should contain all natural ingredients. But do these products live up to their labeling claims? Not necessarily. John Bailey, Ph.D., director of FDA's Office of Cosmetics and Colors, says, "Image is what the cosmetics industry sells through its products, and it's up to the consumers to believe the claims or not." Behind the image, however, real products and consumers want to know what works and what doesn't.

The regulatory requirements governing the sale of cosmetics and cosmetic services are not as stringent as those that apply to other FDA-regulated products. Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics (FD&C) Act, cosmetics and their ingredients are not required to undergo approval before they are sold to the public. Generally, FDA regulates these products after they have been released to the marketplace. This means that manufacturers may use any ingredient or raw material, except for color additives and a few prohibited substances, to market a product without a government review or approval. Even here in the Philippines, both cosmetics and cosmetic services are not stringently regulated.

Dermatology, on the other hand, has a proven track record in providing professional skin care service - from something as simple as a medical facial, acne treatment and wart removal, the proper technique in skin peeling, to the treatment of various skin diseases and disorders. Since dermatology is a recognized branch of medicine, it can only be done by trained medical doctors or Dermatologists, and not just cosmetologists. "The safety of the patient comes first. Thus, any dermatological procedure should not be performed by untrained hands; the risk of complications is just too high. Otherwise, infection due to mismanagement of acne, scarring due to mishandling of equipment used for wart removal, inflammation of the face, hyperpigmentation, and even disfigurement could occur. These things usually happen to patients of cosmetologists who have no sufficient training yet managed to pose as medical specialists and invaded the realm of dermatology," explains Dr. Vinson B. Pineda, F.A.A.D., President and Head Dermatologist of Dermclinic.

Products used by dermatologists also conform to medically proven methods that gives skin-conscious individuals the assurance that what is used for their skin is both effective and safe.

"God should be the center of all endeavors; nothing is possible without Him. Doctors cannot heal without God's presence. 2 Chronicles 15:2 tells us '...The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.' "

Dr. Vinson B. Pineda, F.A.A.D.
President and Head Dermatologist
of Dermclinic

***If you want to get the most out of your skin care and professional dermatological services, call the Dermclinic Hotline** at 818-6274 / 813-0164*

Debutante

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

CLEO with her parents Peter and Carmencita Maack

Young and very pretty, **Cleopatra (Cleo) Hernandez Maack** chose to celebrate her debut in the Philippines, where her mother **Carmencita Hernandez** grew up and has many friends. **Cleo** is educated in her father's Germany and pursued her high school in the United States where she graduated with honors. She was glowing that night of her eighteenth birthday, in a gown by **Pitoy Moreno**. Her mother and father were there to greet the many guests at the Hyatt Hotel Ballroom. Mother **Carmencita** works in the Philippine Consulate in Bonn Germany where she does cultural work. **Carmencita** is a linguist and speaks many languages fluently. Her German is, of course, fluent. It is wonderful to see her so happy. When she was younger, on a vacation in Brazil, she met a terrible car accident. It is tribute to **Carmencita's** courage, beauty of soul and spirit to see her rise above this tragedy. She went to Germany, met her husband **Peter** and they have built a life together. **Cleo** is a beautiful mix of **Cita** and **Peter**. The night she turned 18 was a night for all to remember.

MARYANNE Lumen with Cleo and Luis Gonzales

BUMBO Guerrero and André Khan

FORMER Philippine Ambassador to Germany Bienvenido Tan and Marilou Magsaysay.

THE DELECTABLE Hot Hero Sandwich with 1 piece juicy chicken, 1/2 salad and a drink.

Shakey's New Endorser and Hot Hero's Sandwich's Comeback

SHAKEY'S, the country's most famous pizza restaurant, has now in its family today's uprising young TV and personality and rapper, Carlos Agassi.

Top-billed in Shakey's latest 30-seconder TV commercial dubbed, "One Fine Day," the Amir of Rap isshown going through his daily activities in school, going to the gym and enjoying fun times with family and friends at Shakey's, which also projects the young, revitalized, wholesome character of Shakey's.

Launched together with Carlos as the new endorser, Shakey's also presented the comeback of its well-loved Hot Hero Sandwich.

Now made even better, the new Hot Hero Sandwich haslayers and layers of juicy ham, salami and pepperoni. It's also generously topped with cheddar and feta cheese, mushrooms and black olives, fresh tomatoes and lettuce and your choice of dressing—Thousand Island and Hot Hero Dressing.

The Hot Hero is also now available in three affordable tempting combinations that will greatly appeal to your appetite; 1) 1/2 Hot Hero Sandwich with crispy mojos and dip with drinks, 2) 1/2 Hot Hero Sandwich with salad and drinks, 3) 1/2 Hot Hero Sandwich with 1 piece of juicy chicken, 1/2 salad and drinks.

Completing the fun at the launch is the now-reinforced, Captain Shakey's Mighty Club, which features Shakey's four happy and friendly characters in various party themes—Capt. Shakey's Hero of the World, Suzy Spaghetti's Adventure in Space, Back to Nature with Henny and World of Sports with Mojo.

Shakey's, home of the original thin crust pizza, is the first pizza restaurant franchise in the country. For delivery, please call 5338000.

CARLOS with (from left) Terry Rivas, corporate communications manager, Gigi Bolanos, marketing director, Isabelle Pizarro, brand manager-adult brand and Mariella de Leon, brand manager-kids brand.

THE HOT, HOT HERO IS BACK TO THRILL YA GOOD.

Shakey's
PIZZA Since 1954

HOT HERO SANDWICH

It's back for good to thrill you with layers and layers of juicy ham, salami, and pepperoni. Generously topped with cheddar and feta cheese, mushroom and black olives, fresh tomatoes and lettuce.
And deliciously bundled in a sesame-sprinkled hot hero bun.
In your choice of two delicious dressings: Thousand Island and Hot Hero.

Better than ever!
Grab a whole order.
Or pick one of these three tempting combinations.

1/2 Hot Hero w/ Mojos™ 'n' Dip & Drink P65*
1/2 Hot Hero w/ 1/2 Salad & Drink P65*
1/2 Hot Hero w/ 1 pc. Chicken, 1/2 Salad & Drink P82*

*For take-out or delivery plus box charge.
*Dine-in price subject to 10% service charge.
*Price includes national and local tax.

www.shakeyspizza.ph

Per DTI NCR Permit #0013 Series of 2001

Cherished Photographs

MARITESS Pineda has a gallery of some of the most memorable photographs. Taken decades ago, she has photos from children's parties, her mother's Delia RodrigueMendoza's luncheons and dinners. She the granddaughter of the late Eulogio (Amang) Rodriguez and has remarkable prints of Presidents and political friends of past years. If we had more space we would have used all of them. Selecting these was a difficult task. This special Valentine issue would like to stress the value of keeping old photographs. Never mind those admonitions about clearing up your closets. Photos are special moments that come only once. Cherish and keep them. Like Maritess, you can sit down with friends and browse at the pictures. They are always great for a laugh, a story and an afternoon of reminiscing.

GINA de Venecia as a child

MARILIN Santos Velayo at three

BEAUTIFUL Susan Magalona

SUSING and Maritess Pineda today.

BEAUTIFUL couples of the '50s, (from left) Pinggoy and Nene Vera Perez, Quintin and Betty Gomez, Lino and Dellie Mendoza, Pepe and Mary Ansaldo.

THE LEGENDARY Amang Rodriguez with President Ramon Magsaysay, Dellie, Maritess and Lilibeth.

(L-R) MARI Vargas (Subic Bay Yacht Club manager,) Baby Jun Vargas, Conchitina Sevilla (élan editor) Inday Feria, and Maritess Mendoza at a children's party.

DELLIE Mendoza with Presidents Garcia (left) Laurel and Magsaysay.

(SEATED) Isa Vargas, Didi Feria, Dellie Mendoza, Nelly Gonzales, Pilar Teehankee. (standing) Pepe Ansaldo, Mary Ansaldo, Betty Gomez, Lino Mendoza, Inday Dizon.

FASHIONABLE *Mauve*

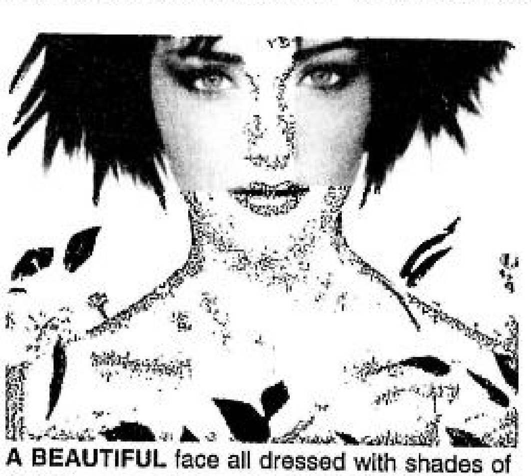
AVON offers a Lilac palette from eye shadows to lipsticks.

They call it by many names – lilac, aubergine, lavender, purple, but mauve sounds like just the right name to give the color of the season. Somehow it is perfect for any and all occasions, Not as somber as black, sheer fabric in mauve, or a rich heavy velvet or moiré, makes dressing for evening absolutely elegant. A whispered mauve, the shade of lilacs against the naked skin makes a seductive and alluring fashion statement. Here are some delectable suggestions for clothes, make-up, accessories and everything else that will make a most memorable Valentine evening.

FROM Dior, Chantilly lace encrusted with beads in the softest mauve.

BATH beauty salts of lilac for a relaxing soak in the tub.

A CLASSIC and timeless Armani shift. Add touches of mauve to the hair too.


A BEAUTIFUL face all dressed with shades of mauve.

A SEDUCTIVE bare midriff encircled by pleated jersey.

A MAUVE SCARF on a strapless gown and you have a new and fashionable outfit.

BPCI chairperson, Mrs. Stella Marquez de Araneta, giving each and every candidate, gifts and thanking them personally for joining the Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant

JOANNE An geles, Gemma Heaton, Christine Recio, Sheryl Lou Franco and Imee Su Martinez

LOVELY Binibinis

JEREMIE Antiporda, Gemma Heaton, Cherry Marie Tavena, Rosarie Tarneo, Precious Lara Quigaman and Andrea Silverio

LOVEly Binibinis

THIRTY of the most beautiful girls in the country are now getting into shape in search of any of the three Crown Jewels of the Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant this year.

Their days are so crammed with fast-paced training, limbering up, gym work, getting beauty secrets from Slimmers World, posing before cameramen and guestings on both radio and television. These are to hone their talents in preparation for the big Coronation Night on Saturday, March 10, at the Big Dome of the Araneta Coliseum.

They come from all over the country with diverse backgrounds but with only one solitary goal—to capture any of the three pageant titles. These are going to be turned over this year by Bb. Pilipinas Universe Ms Nina Ricci Alagao, Bb. Pilipinas World Ms Katherine Annwen de Guzman and Bb. Pilipinas International Ms Joanna Maria Penalosa.

The much-awaited turnover on Coronation Night is a fully televised, top-rated show over GMA 7.

From Day One after she is chosen to be a finalist, she is put to test, as to her visual poise and physical presence that should always give her the aura of a beauty queen every second of her life. She is taught how to walk, talk, smile, dress up and even sip a drink with elegance.

"When she enters the room, she should make everybody beholden to her presence," said a beauty expert from the organizing Bb. Pilipinas Charities Inc. (BPCI). "The moment she doesn't create a stir, she is just one of the many girls in the room and is readily forgotten."

Right now, they look forward to their first official function as special guests to "The Love Concert," featuring Zsa Zsa padilla, Lani Misalucha and Freestyle on Feb. 14 at the Big Dome.

Choosing from more than 150 candidates, the 30 finalists were chosen from two marathon screenings. Beauty experts, sponsors, cameramen, photographers and BPCI officials then tried to find in each and every aspirant the competitive edge that would merit the Filipinos with another international beauty winner. And this year's choices are excellent—bright representatives of the country's various regions.

Sasha Cruzette Capa Benito, 20, has her home in old Albay, only 15 minutes from the foot of the restless Mount Mayon. "Of course, I am a bit worried," said Sha. "But winning a title will give honor to my family, and if lucky, winning an international contest will bring honor to the country."

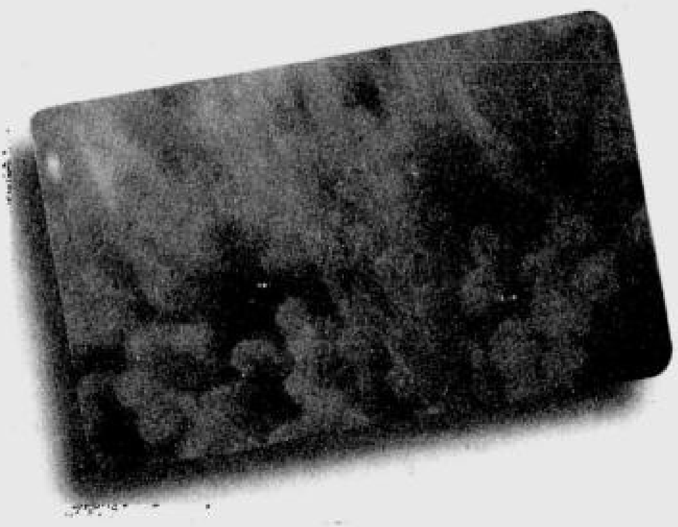
Baguio City's Sheryl Lou Franco, at 17, is the youngest of the finalists. She said she considers the contest very challenging and thus, will make her a better person. Aline Ramirez, at 23 and who hails from Cebu City, a crown added to her Ms Cebu Tourism title, will make her a compleat woman. A businesswoman, she is also into gun-firing, horseback riding and reading contemporary literature.

Bacolod City's best bet, Ella Fides Navarro, wants to pursue her lifetime goal of bringing relief to sexually harassed women, which at present, has been making her busy with her work as a research-volunteer in her hometown. A daughter of a geologist, Zorayda Ruth Andam, has already authored a book "E-primer, an introduction to E-commerce law." At age 24, she intends to pursue the endeavor, making it her contribution to Philippine information technology.

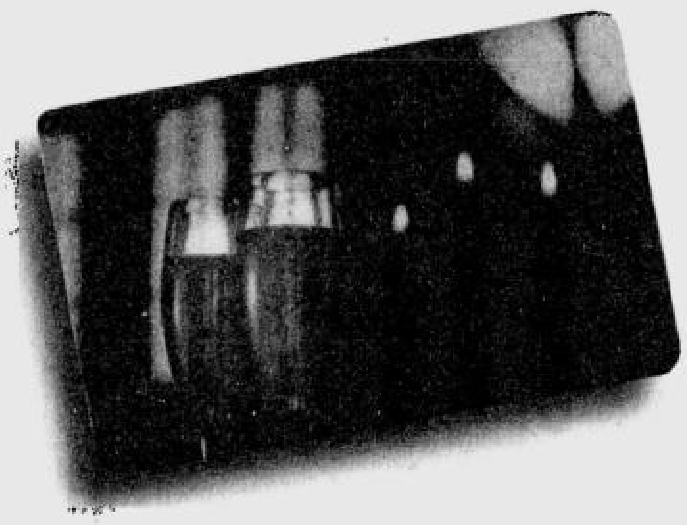
Presented by Unilever Philippines, the Bb. Pilipinas Beauty Pageant is sponsored by Avon Cosmetics Inc., Agfa/Red Bull, Myra 300-E, Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp., Philippine Airlines, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Pizza Hut, David's Salon, Araneta Center Inc., Manila Bulletin, Yehey.com, SGV and GMA 7.

FINAL screening during which the final 30 were chosen

IMEE Su Martinez



Roses.



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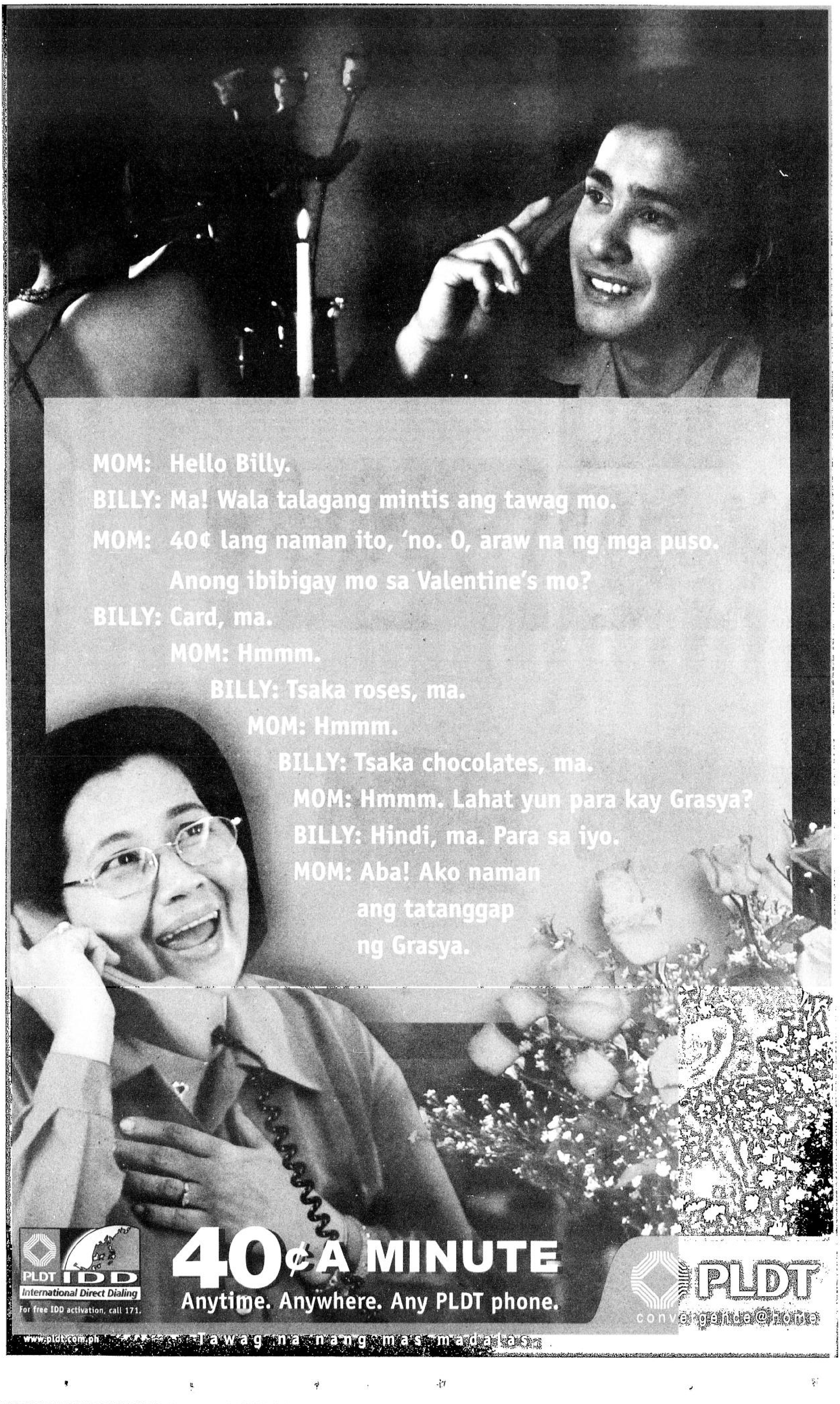

MOM: Hello Billy.

BILLY: Ma! Wala talagang mintis ang tawag mo.

MOM: 40¢ lang naman ito, 'no. O, araw na ng mga puso. Anong ibibigay mo sa Valentine's mo?

BILLY: Card, ma.

MOM: Hmmm.

BILLY: Tsaka roses, ma.

MOM: Hmmm.

BILLY: Tsaka chocolates, ma.

MOM: Hmmm. Lahat yun para kay Grasya?

BILLY: Hindi, ma. Para sa iyo.

MOM: Aba! Ako naman
ang tatanggap
ng Grasya.

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Oscar's campaign season starts

ROBERTS. Double-page ads in the New York Times and LA Times.

By Lawrence Kootnikoff

LOS ANGELES—Top stars have been chatting with television's Jay Leno, David Letterman and Rosie O'Donnell, and posing for paparazzi at glittering parties.

Directors have been pressing the flesh at bookstore signings.

Studios

And most of all, studios have been spending millions—on mailings, full-page ads in the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Tinseltown's two major trade dailies, and on videos and DVDs.

Oscar nominations won't be announced for another three days yet, but campaigning for Hollywood's biggest prizes has been going full tilt for months now.

The goal is to win the hearts and minds of some 5,600 souls, the men and women of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who will anoint the Oscar winners on March 25.

"All of us have been working to the very last minute to hopefully capture the attention of Academy voters, to make sure they see our films," said publicist Steve Elzer of New Line Films ("Thirteen Days").

Nudging

Sometimes Academy members need "a little bit of nudging" to watch all movies in the running, adds Laura Sosin of Lions Gate Films ("Shadow of the Vampire").

Nominees will be announced on Feb. 13.

The stakes are high: not only the honor of the award, but a potential box office gold mine. An Oscar can mean millions, both in post-award ticket sales and in the video and DVD market.

Laura Linney, star of "You Can Count on Me," Juliet Binoche of "Chocolat," Geoffrey Rush of "Quills" and Jamie Bell of "Billy Elliot" have all appeared on "Today," NBC television's highly rated morning program.

Publicists for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" scored a coup when stars Chow Yun-Fat and Michelle Yeoh landed on the cover of Entertainment Weekly's Oscar preview issue.

It wasn't always this way.

Willem Dafoe, generating Oscar excitement as a real-life Dracula in "Shadow of the Vampire," remembers his best supporting actor nomination for "Platoon," Oliver Stone's 1986 Vietnam War drama.

"I found out that I got nominated when my son's baby-sitter called me up," Dafoe told the Times.

The cinematic arms race has escalated since then.

Glossy ads

Glossy ads in the trade press "have increased exponentially in recent years," said Academy executive Ric Robertson, whose office sets campaign rules.

But the public didn't tune in until two years ago, when Miramax Films—after an aggressive, expensive campaign—walked off with seven statuettes, including best picture, for "Shakespeare in Love."

Oscar has issued new, strict guidelines, banning glitzy promotional mailings, organized telephone campaigns and targeting Academy members for invitations to receptions or other events.

But Robertson insists the guidelines were already in the works, "principally inspired by revolution of video tapes being sent to members in the early '90s."

Studios have been spending millions to promote their films

"The packaging was getting more attention than any thing else," he said.

But that has not deterred studios' "awards offices."

Lions Gate is pushing "Vampire" for best picture, best actor (John Malkovich) best supporting actor (Dafoe), and best supporting actress (Catherine McCormack) and several other categories.

"We try to be optimistic," Sosin says.

Short memories

Other studios must overcome short memories.

"Erin Brockovich" opened last March and is already out on video.

But Universal Pictures recently paid $100,000 to $150,000 a pop to splash star Julia Roberts' face across double-page ads in the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times.

Dreamworks did the same for "Gladiator" and "Almost Famous."

"If your film is released very early in the year, you have to create a strategy to reinvigorate interest at academy time," Universal's Terry Curtin told the Los Angeles Times.

But the keepers of the flame hope people remember the reason for the awards.

"What the Academy wants the focus to be on is the movies," Robertson says. "And when you and your colleagues in the press are writing more about packaging, that defeats the purpose."

AFP

RUSSELL CROWE. Star of "Gladiator."

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Scooping the competition on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Tuesday evening, we were waiting for the early-evening TV newscasts when, at around 5:50 p.m., Channel 7 came out with a "breaking news" report about labor activist Popoy Lagman's being felled by assassins' bullets at UP Diliman. On phone patch later, Popoy's brother, Edcel Lagman, volunteered more details.

After that, we switched to Channel 2 to see how soon it would came out with its initial report, but it wasn't until around 6:05 p.m., within the "TV Patrol" newscast, that the channel came up with its first news item about the shooting.

We then switched back and forth between the two channels' "TV Patrol" and "Saksi" news programs for more updates, but nothing else was forthcoming until around 6:25 p.m., when Channel 2 put Popoy's niece, Crisel, on phone patch for her to share what she knew about what had transpired. But the phone patch was accompanied by video of the scene of the crime, which we didn't see on Channel 7, even after "Saksi" had ended.

Summing up, at least as per our viewing, Channel 7 was first to come out with the basic report and phone patch confirmation by a relative. Channel 2's report and phone patch were delayed, but they had video support, which is important on television.

As Channels 2 and 7 continue to compete with each other in news reportage, instances like the Popoy Lagman shooting give broadcast journalists *and* viewers handy touchstones for how the two leading channels are faring in competition with one another.

For example, Channel 7's lead time of around 15 minutes should be analyzed by Channel 2's new team, to make sure it doesn't happen again.

On the other hand, if Channel 2 was indeed first to come out with video on the scene of the crime, Channel 7 should re-evaluate its video team deployment system to be as swiftly responsive in this key area of TV news reportage.

On TV, lead time is measured not in minutes, but in seconds. Lead times of 15 minutes or so suggest that some channels' news retrieval and video coverage systems need to be tightened to keep up with the increasingly determined competition.

'Nasaan Si Hesus?' at Subic

At 6 p.m. today, Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's popular religious musical-comedy revue, "Nasaan Si Hesus (Sa Mundong Makasalanan)?," will have its first performance for 2001 at the Subic Bay Arts Center at the SBMA Complex in Zambales. The show is sponsored by Chairman Felicito Payumo for the benefit of the dioceses of Iba and Balanga.

The members of the revue's cast include gifted musical-theater artists Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Joel Villaflor, Arlene Borja, Shiela Asuncion, Albert Jimenez, Catherine Estabillo, Daryl Reyes, Angeli Flores, Jeanne Lim, Ray Manalo and child acting sensation Niña.

Other performances of "Nasaan si Hesus?" are slated at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Cavite and Cebu. If you want the religious revue to be performed in your parish, school or office, call Nelson at 713-9323. "Nasaan si Hesus?" is a presentation of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"NASAAN SI Hesus?" composer Bing Pimentel with her husband, Senate President Nene Pimentel.

PANELO. Host of new MTV Philippines programs "Morning TV" and "MTV Hush," which started telecasting last month.

New shows on MTV

Starting last Jan. 19, MTV Philippines (on Channel 41) has been kickstarting the viewing day with "Morning TV," hosted by VJs KC and Belinda (Monday to Friday). On the show, musical artists pop up at the MTV studio to share lively conversation and coffee.

Another new show is "MTV Mush," hosted by VJ Belinda, at 10 p.m. Mondays and Sundays. It features a playlist of romantic ballads and love tips from local and international artists.

Opening concert

The opening event of this year's Philippines-Japan Festival is "The Wild, Wailing Sound of Tsugaru Shamisen," as played by Kaze, a folk music ensemble whose style transcends the traditional way of performing classical folksongs.

The members of Kaze are gifted musicians who have undergone many years of specialized training, which includes the study of the tsugaru shamisen, transverse flutes, the shakuhachi and folk singing.

The concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 at the CCP Little Theater. Admission is free but seat reservations are required. Call the Japan Foundation Manila office at 811-6155 to 58 on or before Feb 12.

Richard Merk's career perks up

Richard Merk's performing schedule this month:

Feb. 12 at Ratsky's in Malate with his band, composed of Rey Cristobal, Roger Herrera, Roy Mercado, Rudy Lozano and Uly Avante.

Feb 15 at Tower Records at Glorietta Center, for the launch of Merk's CD, "Jazz in Time," released by Star Records.

Feb. 17 at the Shadows bar of Concorde Hotel in Baguio City, with a live band led by Rey Cristobal.

Feb. 23 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in a return engagement with Vernie Varga.

It's great to see Richard working so hard to make up for lost time!

TV treats

Saturday, Feb 10 at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Ang Kabit ni Mrs. Montero" with Patricia Javier, Edu Manzano, Sunshine Cruz and Gardo Verzosa.

Sunday, Feb. 11 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "10 Things I Hate About You." In this refreshing adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, "The Taming of the Shrew," Gil Junger directs Julia Stiles, Larisa Oleynik, Heath ledger and Andrew Keegan.

Monday, Feb 12 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Waterboy" with Adam Sandler. At 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Star Movies, "Celebrity Profile" focuses on Michael Keaton.

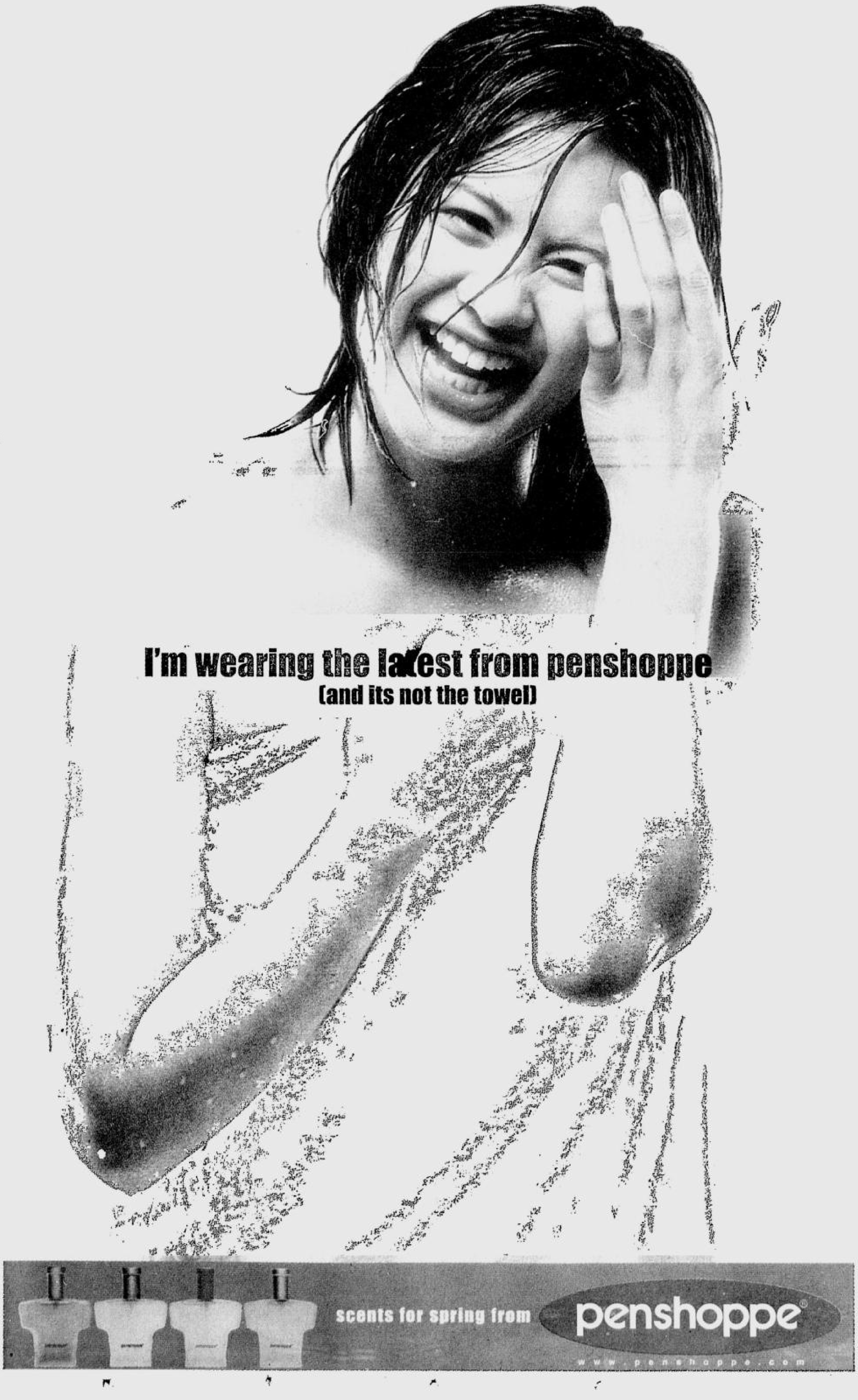
Movies on TV this weekend

On HBO, Saturday, Feb 10: 6 a.m., "Nowhere Land." 7:30 a.m., "In the Doghouse." 9 a.m., "Last Rites." 10:30 a.m., "Frozen." 12 noon, "Touched by A Killer." 1:45 p.m., "Midnight Run." 4 p.m., "Stroker Ace." 5:30 p.m., "The Wedding Singer." 7:15 p.m., "Uncommon Valor." 9 p.m., "Big Daddy." 10:30 p.m., "The Karate Kid, Part 3." 12:20 a.m., "Santana: Supernatural Live." 1:55 a.m., "Batman." 4 a.m., "Gardens of Stone."

Sunday, Feb. 11: 6 a.m., "Stick." 8 a.m., "Paradise Alley." 9:45 a.m., "Moon Over Parador." 11:30 a.m., "Farewell My Love." 1 p.m., "Jawbreaker." 2:30 p.m., "Cape Fear." 4:45 p.m., "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." 6:30 p.m., "Passport to Paris." 8 p.m., "Carlito's Way." 10 p.m., "Lost in Space." 12:10 a.m., "Action 6: Twelfth Step to Hell." 12:35 a.m., "Message in a Bottle." 2:45 a.m., "Singles." 4:15 a.m., "The Last Married Couple in America."

On the Cinemax channel, Saturday Feb. 10: 6:30 a.m., "Cinemas of the World: Welcome to Bollywood." 7:30 a.m., "The Substitute, 2: School's Out." 9 a.m., "Dead on the Money." 10:30 a.m., "Above Suspicion." 12:15 p.m., "A Return to Salem's Lot." 2 p.m., "Rebel Without a Cause." 3:45 p m., "Velocity Trap." 5:15 p.m., "Les Miserables (1998). 7:30 p.m., "Ground Zero." 9 p.m., "Blowback." 10:30 p.m., "The Substitute, 2 School's Out." 12 midnight, "Past Midnight." 1:40 a.m., "Stranger Than Fiction." 3:15 a.m:, "Les Miserables" (1998). 5:30 a.m., "Hollywood Superstars: Don Aykroyd."

Sunday, Feb 11: 6 a.m., "Channelling Baby." 7:30 a.m., "Private Benjamin." 9:30 a.m., "Moving Target." 11 a.m., "Nuremberg,' Part 1." 12:30 p.m., "Nuremberg, Part 2." 2 p.m., "Can't Hardly Wait." 3:45 p.m., "Ed TV." 5:45 p.m., "My Mother Frank." 7:15 p.m., "Joe Versus the Volcano." 9 p.m., "Partners." 10:30 p.m., "Moving Target." 12 midnight, "Can't Hardly Wait." 1:40 a.m., "Bullseye!" 3:15 a.m., "Lured Innocence." 4:45 a.m., "Hud."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Movie master returns to his TV roots with '100 Centre Street'

By Frazier Moore

NEW YORK—When Sidney Lumet began his directing career at the U.S. CBS network a half-century ago, television was even younger than he was.

He stayed in TV for a decade, his last productions airing when Ronald Reagan still hosted "G.E. Theater."

Grand collaboration

Then he went on to make nearly four dozen theatrical features including "The Verdict," "Dog Day Afternoon," "Fail Safe," "Serpico" and, of course, "Network," his grand collaboration with Paddy Chayefsky skewering the television industry.

Now Lumet is back. "100 Centre Street,'' his new weekly courtroom drama, premieres Monday on cable's A&E network. The two-hour series opener (which Lumet directed and wrote) picks up with assurance from where he left TV drama circa 1960.

Meanwhile, he seems personally immune to the passage of time. During a recent interview in his Queens production office at Kaufman-Astoria Studios, Lumet radiates, at 76, "an absorbing, warm, menschy vitality" (as one fan has written about his work).

Network television should have aged so well.

"It's a coincidence," says Lumet in explaining his return to TV. "Two things came together."

The first thing was an offer from NBC to write a pilot script—which, after NBC turned it down, A&E liked enough to solicit 13 episodes.

Legal arena

As with many of Lumet's films, ''100 Centre Street'' is set in the legal arena. It gets its title from the address of Manhattan's Criminal Courts Building, where, during night court, the system endures an impossible caseload with 90-second verdicts and, too often, justice gone awry.

"I'm not a propagandist," Lumet says, even as he proudly owns up to his liberal leanings. "To me, it's important that I find something out about people. And if the story tells you a little bit about that person, then it's gonna tell you about that time and its issues, almost automatically. You don't have to reach."

A splendid cast helps. Playing a willfully compassionate judge, Alan Arkin is joined by LaTanya Richardson as a judicial colleague who is tough as nails. Paula Devicq, Joseph Lyle Taylor and Manny Perez play spirited, sometimes fumbling young attorneys.

Also worth noting about ''100 Centre Street:'' However frantic the pace of the characters' lives, the series' own tempo holds steady. Scenes unfold with due fullness. Dialogue is lush. The show may have a "filmic'' look, but the feel is that of live TV drama.

No wonder. Lumet directed hundreds of live broadcasts in the 1950s—episodes of "Danger" and "You Are There," "Studio One" and "Playhouse 90."

But that kind of live TV is dead. Lumet says he wasn't disappointed when NBC nixed his new series. He wasn't eager to apply the cumbersome filmmaking process to TV, even with A&E's inducement.

LUMET. "The old rules still apply, it's still a jungle out there." AP

Then, in a happy coincidence, he found the other thing that made TV seem attractive: a new high-density video camera that captures on tape an even better picture than a conventional movie camera shooting film. Lumet realized he could gang three of these Sony cameras and, by switching back and forth while the action progressed, shoot the whole scene in real time.

Multiple cameras

"We went back 50 years and started using a live television technique," says Lumet with the glee of someone who has pulled a fast one. "We had multiple cameras in automobiles. I had three cameras inside a police station."

And when he wrapped the scene, he would have a finished cut.

"When you've got this kind of ensemble piece," Lumet says of his new series, "there really is no replacement for actors working out of one another and doing an entire scene in one go-around."

Without even knowing why, most viewers should detect a difference. Each scene breathes naturally. Connective tissue, however invisible, binds all the shots into a unified performance.

As if that weren't enough, the color from his HDTV cameras look the way the real world looks, Lumet is happy to add. "Film color is primarily beautiful, rather than true," he complains. "The blue of a sky that you see on film, you've never seen in real life. It doesn't exist.

"For anything where you want total realism, this camera is irreplaceable. If I had had it when I was doing 'Dog Day Afternoon,' I would have fought with Warner Bros. to let me do the picture this way."

Here at Kaufman-Astoria and out on location, ''100 Centre Street'' was shot from August through December. Now Lumet, as executive producer, is waiting for the go-ahead to make more episodes.

Youth-obsessed

Not that he has turned his back on movies (which he also hopes to make more of), nor does he worry that Hollywood, so youth-obsessed, has turned its back on him.

"The old rules still apply," Lumet says with a sage chuckle—"it's a jungle out there." And, as he should know as well as anyone, everything old is new again.

AP

Star Movies launches Do-Your-Own Blair Witch video contest

"THE BLAIR Witch Project" used a cast of unknowns and a microscopic budget to beat the odds and earn over P250 million. In the spirit of the film, Star Movies now invites young or student filmmakers to start their own journey to fame with Star Movies' "Do-It-Yourself" (D.I.Y.) Blair Witch video contest.

Cable telecast

The kick off of Star Movies' "D.I.Y." Blair Witch tilt coincides with the exclusive cable telecast of the hit independent film, "The Blair Witch Project" on Star Movies on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Star Movies' Do-Your-Own Blair Witch lets you express your creative talents—the more unique and mind-boggling, the better! Contest deadline is on March 30.

Star Movies' "D.I.Y." Blair Witch is regionwide across South East Asia and Taiwan. The winners will receive Sony DCR-PC100E Digital Handycams, have their videos aired across Asia on Star Movies, as well as streamed through www.startv.com.

Rules

The contest rules are as follows: Open to Filipino student or amateur filmmakers, ages 16 to 26. Short films only, no music videos, although all film genres are accepted: narrative/fiction, documentary, experimental, or animation. Maximum video running time/program length is five (5) minutes.

Entries may be in English or Filipino. Entries must be submitted with the video title, synopsis and script (with English translation if not in English), as well as director's name, address, contact telephone nos. and e-mail address.

Representative office

Entries must be on mini-DV, VHS, ¾ U-matic, or BetaSP and must be submitted to Star TV's representative office at Cable Technology Asia Corp (at Unit 2903-D West Tower, PSE Bldg. Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City), no later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 30.

All tapes must be on PAL or in NTSC. Entries may be edited to conform to the Hong Kong Standard and Practices Handbook governing sex, violence and explicit dialogue. For more information and contest entry forms, visit www.startv.com/blairwitch.

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keyword: wati

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IT MIGHT BE YOU
keyword: mightbu

THE LOV
keyword

TWO HEAR
keyword: 2h

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keyword: unchained

WHAT MATTERS MOST
keyword: watmatrs

WHATEVER WE IMAGINE
keyword: weimagin

WHEN I SEE YOU SMILE
keyword: seeusmil

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND
keyword: gotfrnd2

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lovely
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3. Click on SEND RINGTONE. Then scroll down and click SPECIAL.
4. Click on SELECT and scroll down to your desired ringtone. Then click TO and input the Globe Handyphone number of the recipient. Press SEND to forward. You will receive a confirmation via Text Message.

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2. Send the complete message to 2356. All messages successfully sent will be charged.
3. You will receive a text message confirming your order.

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3. Type in the following:
   -Card code of your chosen card (ex. 204
   -Recipient's Name and press OK
   -Recipient's delivery address* and press
   -Sender's name and press OK
   -Your Valentine's message and press OK
   **Note: Put a "/" between the location, stre*
   Do not put a space before and after the "/"
4. You will receive a Text Message confirm

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h your love one this Valentine's Day

e them a ♥
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Warm their hearts
Globe
Valentine ♥
Cards

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loveeyes

girlhart

Lovestruck!
luvstruk

HAPPY VALENTINE!
hapyval

luvsun

HEART broken
heartbrk

roses

hearts

hearts2

iloveyou

Valentine greetings
are for people who
Make life a lot brighter--
people like you!

Happy Valentine's Day

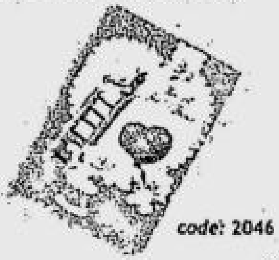
code: 2054

A special Valentine to say
That there could never be
A better friend to anyone
Than you have been to me

Have a Nice Valentine's Day

Now and then we meet a friend
Who's fine in every way--
Someone we like to be with
No matter what the day
Someone who's understanding
Who's always thoughtful, too--
The truly wonderful kind of friend
That I have found in you

Have A Nice Valentine's Day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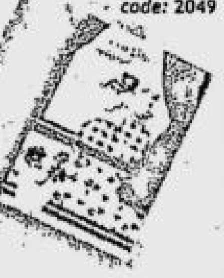
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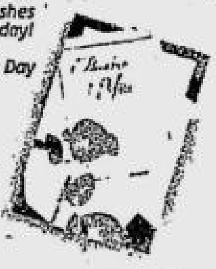
A special friend
is a friend who shares
One who listens, one who cares
One who's quick to lend a hand
To ease a hurt, to understand --
A special friend is a blending of
Loyalty and cheer and love
Faith and trust and kindness, too
In short, it's someone
just like you!

Happy Valentine's Day
Happiness Always

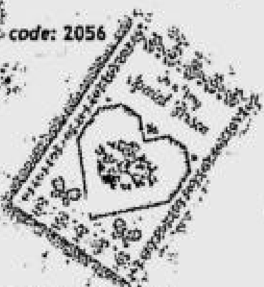
Filled this card
with friendly thoughts
And mailed it
out your way
Along with
special wishes
For an extra-happy day!

Happy Valentine's Day


code: 2052

Wherever you go,
Whatever you do,
Remember there's someone
Who really loves you!

code: 2050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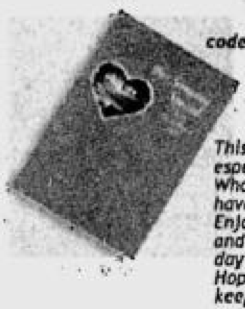

code: 2055

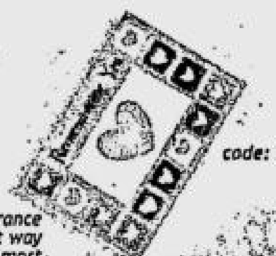
This Valentine's coming
especially to say
Whatever you do
have a very nice day,
Enjoy every minute
and when the
day's through
Hope nice things
keep happening
especially for you!

Happy Valentine's Day

When someone's like you
Very thoughtful and kind
Doing nice things so often
With others in mind...

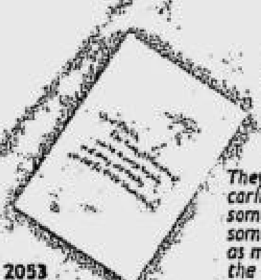
Then it isn't surprising
That other folks, too
Should love any chance
To wish good things for you!

Happy Valentine's Day!


code: 2047

A valentine remembrance
seems to be the nicest way
Of showing those we care for most
They're thought about today

Happy Valentine's Day


code: 2053

They show what a warm,
caring person you are--
someone I'm glad to know,
someone I'm very happy to have
as my friend, someone who deserves
the very best that life can give.

Have a Wonderful Valentine's Day

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3. Click on SEND LOGO, scroll down and click Valentine.
4. Click on SELECT and scroll down to your desired phone display. Then choose PREVIEW.
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2 TC loveyou 09171234456 Nicole Happy Valentine

To send or forward: Type in TC <title> <0917 + Globe Handyphone number> <sender's name> <sender's message>; and send to 2301 then wait for reply.

b. Via GlobeXplore Campus Pack:

1 First, click **Menu** on your phone and scroll to select **GlobeXplore Campus Pack.**

2 Click on **Fun** and select **Picture Msg.**

3 To send the **Text Card** to yourself, click on **Download.**

4 To send the **Text Card** to a friend, click on **Forward.**

5 Type in the keyword of your **Text Card** choice, or click on **Categories** for other options.

6 You or your friend will receive the requested **Text Card.**

Marvin Agustin doesn't have a mean bone in his body

AGUSTIN, periodically takes time out for some rest and introspection.

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

MARVIN Agustin is easygoing, decent and nice. Sometimes even *too* nice! So even if he plays the ambitious, selfish son in "Tanging Yaman," he still looks sympathetic. Nope, it's not his angelic looks; he just doesn't have a mean bone in his body.

Depth

But he can still put depth, angst, pain and anxiety into the tragic characters he portrays. As Danilo, the ill-fated brother of Judy Ann Santos in "Esperanza," and as Ruben, the unfortunate and sympathetic illegitimate son in "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," he made women weep.

The trials and difficulties in his personal life made Marvin understand the complexities of these tragic characters. He took odd jobs—altar boy, pizza mascot and marketing guy for Tia Maria—before he was introduced as a member of Star Circle Batch 2 in ABS-CBN.

He's the family breadwinner and father figure for his nephew, John "Tap-Tap" Maverick. He even bought Tap-Tap a college education plan. He simply loves to do things for his family.

"*Isa sa mga* milestone *sa buhay ko ay nung makatulong na ako sa pamilya ko. Medyo sumisikip na kami sa* townhouse *namin kaya naghahanap na rin ako ng bagong* property. *Kahit lupa na muna, at saka na patatayuan ng bahay.*

"*Kaya nga ayoko munang mag-asawa. Pag nag-asawa ka, yon na ang* priority *mo. Gusto ko munang tapusin ang responsibilidad ko sa pamilya ko,*" Marvin reveals.

Franchises

He owns two franchises of Mr. Donut, a product he endorses, and plans to go back to school (Thames Business School in Greenhills) this March. As a child, he always dreamed of becoming a good businessman. Right now, he's working hard to save enough money to fulfill his other dream: to study film abroad.

"*Gusto ko sanang mag-aral sa* UP *pero kung susuwertihin, mas maganda kung sa* abroad *ako makakapag-aral. Gusto kong mag-direk ng mga pelikula kapag hindi na ako masyadong* active *sa pag-aartista,*" Marvin shares.

He's not all work and no play, however. He celebrated his 22nd birthday at CRIBS (Creative Responsive Infants By Sharing) and brought toys and gifts for the delighted kids. After his celebration, he headed for Boracay for some rest and introspection.

Traveling alone was a blessing. He spent his time sleeping! "I can sleep anywhere, *kahit sa* taping, *kahit mainit at maingay.*I need at least six hours of sleep a day. *Mas nakakapag*-concentrate *ako, mas madali sa akin ang mag*-memorize *kapag nakapag-siesta ako,*" Marvin shares.

Rituals

He watches cable TV when he wants to doze off. When he's having a hard time sleeping, he goes through these rituals: a warm glass of non-fat milk, changing into boxer shorts, a thorough brushing of teeth because he can't sleep if his mouth feels dirty, and he hugs his hotdog pillow.

His main "vice" is sleeping. He drinks alcohol occasionally but dislikes parties and the nightlife. Just clean, wholesome living for this nice guy!

'Rent' opens in Singapore today with predominantly Filipino cast

By Bibsy M. Carballo

WHEN Bobby Garcia produced and directed the hit musical "Rent" two years ago in Manila, it almost seemed like he was going against all odds. Friends advised him against it, saying that the material was alien to the Filipino psyche, that it was too American, in fact too lower Eastside Manhattan.

Starring artists

Its plot involving a group of starving artists grappling with problems of drugs, AIDS and homosexual relationships didn't appear to be one the Filipino audience would readily embrace.

But they were proven wrong. "Rent" was a big success and continues to be talked about in theater circles.

"It is simply because the message of the musical is so universal," says Bobby. Its theme about diversity and individuality appealed to the youth who filled the theater, often returning again and again.

During that run, some people from the Singapore Repertory Theater got to watch the play, were impressed and decided to bring it to Singapore. In October last year, Bobby flew to Singapore to hold auditions there. He came up with four actors, after which he held auditions in Manila for the rest of the cast. "Rent" runs at the 900-seater Victoria Theater in Singapore from Feb. 10 to March 3.

Rehearsals

The Singaporeans who have been in Manila a month for rehearsals are Pam Oei, Brendon Fernandez, Richard Chia and Asha Edmund. The Filipino cast is led by pop singer Rachel Alejandro in the role of Mimi, belter Anna Fegi as Maureen, balladeer Calvin Millado as Roger, Michael de Mesa as Collins, VJ JM Rodriguez as Mark, Jake Macapagal as Angel, and ensemble players Boyd Tinio, Joel Trinidad, ManMan Angsico, Lana Jalosjos, Gloria Sicam, Beatrice Gomez and Carlo Ledesma.

The cast has been totally taken by the play, so much so that the leads have given up a lot in terms of income just to do the musical. Rachel canceled all bookings, Michael had to give up his TV show, and Anna had to forego the launching of her debut album and numerous bookings. But they don't appear to be sorry.

As Calvin verbalizes it, "Sacrifices are always made. But 'Rent' gave me a more valuable lesson to hug every opportunity, to live life to the fullest and treat every performance as if it were my last."

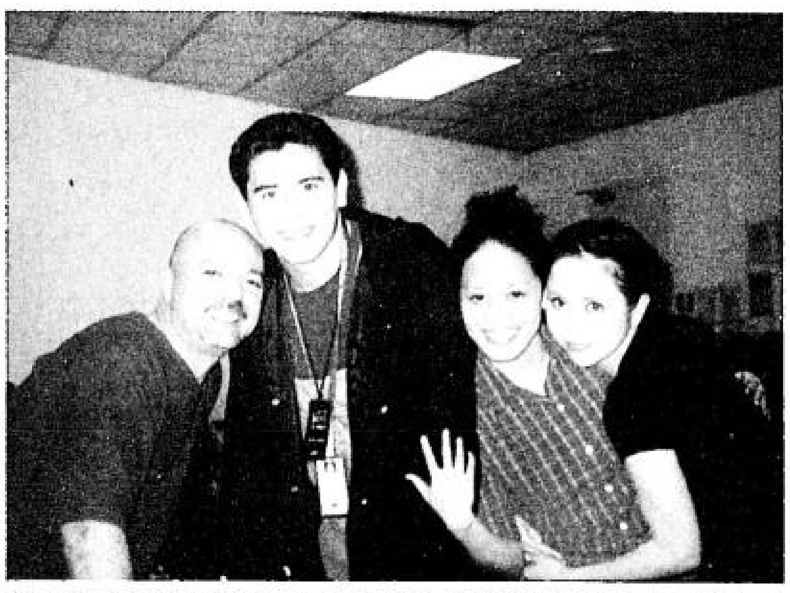
Rachel loved the music immediately after watching the show on Broadway. Michael says he was absolutely in awe of the music and the message. Anna says it is her type of music and her type of play. Calvin always finds something new to discover that constantly challenges him.

Drug problem

Although Michael really wanted to play Roger since he identifies with him because he also once had a drug problem, he loves the part where Collins sings one of the most dramatic songs in the musical when Angel dies.

"I look at it as the turning point in the lives of the characters," he says. "The hard part though is that Collins is a homosexual." Michael also played Collins in the original Manila run.

Like Michael, Calvin is a repeater in the role of Roger. He finds the character challenging both vocally and emotionally. "It's the kind of role that makes us think of the decisions we make in life," he observes. Other than that, he is attracted to the character of Collins. "He has a sense of control over everyone, including his life," Calvin says.


DIRECTOR Bobby Garcia second from left, with "Rent" actors Michael de Mesa, Anna Fegi and Rachel Alejandro.

"Rent" first-timer Rachel likes Mimi because she is very real, with a lot of good as well as bad points to her. "We are similar in the sense that we both have tough exteriors but inside, we are needy and weak," she shares.

She also sees herself doing the role of the lesbian Joanne. Having played a passive lesbian in her last play "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," Rachel says, "it would be interesting to tackle the role of an accomplished lesbian."

Challenge

Similarly, Anna Fegi, who takes over from Monique Wilson who did the original run, looks upon her role of Joanne's lover Maureen as a challenge. "I've never played a lesbian lover before and it is a new and exciting experience," she says.

Bobby finds this current version much more fun, perhaps because of the combination of personalities in the cast and the presence of that other culture in the Singaporeans. "As the cast changes, the relationships on stage change and you'll never get the same results," he explains.

The canines have it in 'Snatch'

By Matt Wolf

LONDON—A character beats the living daylights out of his victim and then casually remarks, "Bonjour." Another offers advice on the best way to dispose of a corpse, and comments, "Goody gumdrops!"

Flip world

Welcome to the ceaselessly—and tiresomely—flip world of "Snatch," the new movie from British director Guy Ritchie, better known these days as Madonna's husband.

Well before his December wedding to the pop icon, Ritchie burst upon the scene two years ago as the writer-director of "Lock, Stock, & Two Smoking Barrels," a gangster film that was hip and violent and enjoyably paper-thin.

It's the enjoyment factor that's missing from this latest venture, which uses some of the earlier film's cast—Jason Statham and former soccer player Vinnie Jones—while ladling on a facetiousness that has lost its charm.

The characters may suggest an Anglicized Damon Runyon landscape, with names like Franky Four Fingers, Doug the Head, Boris the Blade and Gorgeous George.

But despite the "street cred"—as the English refer to the streetwise world of London's lads—"Snatch" suffers from a story that goes stale even as it's being told.

Jewel heist

The setting, naturally, is London's criminal underworld, and the story involves a jewel heist that spans countries, cultures, and social echelons, with Brad Pitt's Mickey O'Neil inhabiting a milieu all his own.

Pitt is likably game, playing a wild-eyed gypsy with a pugilist's physique and a barely penetrable accent. And if his, uh, unique Irish brogue would seem to require subtitles all its own, well, why not? Its very oddness is written into the script.

PITT. Plays a wild-eyed gypsy with a Pugilist's physique.

Pitt's bare-knuckle boxing champ would seem to be the talking point of the film, and the actor certainly looks happier here than he did previously trying on an accent—opposite Tom Cruise in "Interview With the Vampire."

But far from being the outright star, Pitt is presented in the ensemble as one of various low-lifes.

Adrift

Dennis Farina is on hand as Avi, a New Yorker adrift in cockney London, while Benicio Del Toro, the baleful (and excellent) co-star of "Traffic," appears here to considerably less effect as Franky Four Fingers.

The plot, such as it is, bounces among these men and others, telling of the largely comic efforts to retrieve an 84-carat jewel that has disappeared from its Antwerp home.

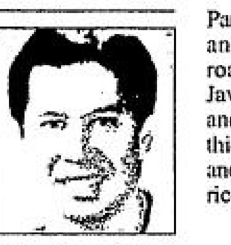
Sadism and psychosis figure large, but so does the prevailing sense that none of it really matters anyway.

Ritchie, who apprenticed in videos and commercials, and his producer, Matthew Vaughn, might well argue that to dislike "Snatch" is to take it far too seriously.

Be forewarned that—in the best British tradition—the canines have it: amid the climate of slaughter, maiming, and burning that characterizes "Snatch," a dog is the only screen creature to engender anything approaching pity. *AP*

Authentic Indonesian cuisine at Sarinah Cafe

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

AMONG the many cuisines all over the world, to me, Asian is still the best. And among the cuisines I fancy, Chinese and Thai are on top of my list.

Indonesian and Malaysian are also great cuisines but in Manila, there is only one Malaysian and one Indonesian restaurant along Libis that serves a delicious baby squid appetizer. The Indonesian restaurant, I learned about by accident.

Food lovers

It's always nice to talk to food lovers. No matter what topic you discuss, an exchange of good food ideas is always part of the conversation.

At a meeting I had with Chito and Toni Loyzaga, they showed me the plans for their development in Canlubang, something that all Filipinos will be very proud of—but that's another story.

Part of our discussion turned to food and Toni mentioned a fairly new Indonesian restaurant along Polaris st. in Makati. She had just dined there a few days back and said the food was great.

She warned though that the place had to be visited before 12 or after lunch, because it was always full. I glanced at my watch: 11:30 a.m. After our very interesting meeting, I took off and found the place!

Sarinah Café is on the same street as Alba's (where they have the best chorizos and many other Spanish specialties—just slice and fry them until crisp), La Tienda, La Taverna and of course Joseph and Jaymarks where you find the most delicious crispy *buntot ng tuna* (exactly like crispy *pata* but healthy) and fresh *inihaw na panga ng tuna*.

Small restaurant

Going back to the new Indonesian discovery, it is a small restaurant with only a few tables that has been in operation for almost a year now. The place is owned and run by Madame Trui Mongula Edralin. She does the cooking herself. Each plate is served with a cup of rice, some vegetables and the main dish.

We tried three dishes. I had the Ayam Panggang, Gado-gado, Kerpuk Udang and Nashi Putih. These are just roasted chicken dipped in a spicy Javanese marinade, steamed tender and served with mixed vegetables, thickened with a nice peanut sauce and some prawn-flavored chips with rice on the side.

Deliciously spicy

I loved my chicken because it was very tender and the flavors were unique. The beef rendang was deliciously spicy and the presence of *gata* in the chili sauce stabilized the spice.

The third was a noodle dish that had some shrimp wrapped in *molo* wrappers. Good, but not that great.

For dessert, we had the Chendol and tapioca-covered water chestnut. The taste is similar to our Ginumis. Chilled more, it would have tasted even better.

I loved the experience. Prices are inexpensive. I plan to go back to try the other dishes.

If you're curious what Indonesian cuisine is like, this place is authentic and the food is great. Check it out!

Sarinah Café is on the ground floor of Lydia bldg. at 39 Polaris st. in Makati. Call tel. no. 897-7249. Happy eating!

Jodie Foster withdraws from Cannes filmfest jury

PARIS—Award-winning actress Jodie Foster has backed out of an earlier agreement to head the jury at the 54th Cannes film festival in May, after getting offered a leading movie role, festival officials said Sunday.

Knee injury

Foster was asked to replace Nicole Kidman in David Fincher's "The Panic Room," after Kidman dropped out of the production with a knee injury, Gilles Jacob, the event's president, said in a statement.

Foster said that filming of the movie would conflict with the festival that runs from May 9-20, the statement added.

Jacob, who announced in January that Foster would head the jury for the prestigious festival in southern France, said a replacement would be announced soon.

Foster, who speaks perfect French, told Jacob she was heartbroken at having to withdraw from the Cannes job.

Delay

"I hope with all my heart that this is only a delay and that I will be able, if the festival will do me the honor of asking me again, to be one day—and this time for sure—the president of the jury at a festival to which I owe so much," the statement released by organizers quoted Foster as saying. *AP*

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

KC Montero wants to keep his clothes on

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

MONTERO. " A lot of people have hidden agendas."

KC MONTERO doesn't mind sharing the limelight with his older brother, Troy. He's even grateful that Troy entered show business first.

"Yes, there's a little competition but we're brothers before anything else. Besides I always win anyway," KC grins then adds, "I guess it was easier for me because Troy was the guinea pig."

He admits that he's friendly but he doesn't trust people easily. "There are a lot of people who aren't real, they have hidden agendas and you can feel that they want something. I don't let anybody get that close to me—it's my way of playing safe," KC shares.

He acts goofy and daring as a VJ on MTV and a happy-go-lucky host on "GMA Love Stories" but he doesn't see himself baring his bod on camera, even if female viewers find him sexy.

"If I show my butt now, then I end up showing my butt for the rest of my career. If I ever get big enough to pull it off and not be typecast as a sex symbol or someone who shows his butt, then maybe I'll do it," KC says.

Aside from going on a trip to Venice to eat pizza and sing Italian songs, KC wants to have a girlfriend who will understand him.

"She should understand how my brain works because sometimes I can't figure it out myself. She has to keep me on my toes but she should be completely at ease with me. She should have a sense of humor. I don't want a girl who's superficial," he declares.

The Dawn releases new album

The need to create good music is the driving force that pushed The Dawn to do "Iisang Bangka Tayo," the song which got them a nomination for Best Asian Music Video in the 1992 Annual MTV Video Awards. Now they've used that same drive to compose songs like "Kalayaan" and "Standing By Your Heart."

They bowed out from the music scene in 1994 when bands were sprouting left and right. Now they're making a comeback by releasing a new album under Sony Music even if the competition from other bands is stiffer and more diverse. Aren't they afraid?

Carlos Balcells gives Jett Pangan a meaningful look. "No we're not afraid of other bands. *Mas maganda nga kung madami kami* because the local band scene will flourish," he says.

Jett Pangan recalls, "*Lahat ng nangyayari sa* new bands, *nangyari na sa* The Dawn for eight years. Listeners have a choice now, no single type of music is crammed down the listener's throat."

Abe Florendo pens 'Hair Majesty' for Ricky Reyes

After having a string of hair salons to his name, Ricky Reyes decided to share his story through the coffee table book, "Hair Majesty." Abe Florendo not only documents but also celebrates the career and life of Ricky Reyes.

"He is the classic self-made man. He is the master of reinvention. When times are hard, Ricky dreams harder. It did not matter that his first parlor was a hole-in-the-wall in San Juan, as long as he kept his clients pretty and well-groomed," Abe says.

New indie film producer is hopeful

We got a chance to talk to World Arts Cinema's Jojo Galang, the independent film producer who is set to release her new film on Valentine's Day. "It's a small film," she describes "Sa Iyong Mga Haplos," "and it doesn't feature big stars, but it's a pretty decent film."

Galang tells us she likes using wonderful locations as backdrops for her films. For her new film, she has chosen Baguio and its nearby surroundings as locale, a perfect backdrop for a "triangle" story involving a ghost and a young couple. Directed by Edgardo Vinarao, the film is topbilled by Yda Manzano, Alan Paule, Ray Ventura, Raffy Anido, Pyar Mirasol and Pinky Amador.

Paule praises his producer for her professionalism and for "paying cast and crew in cash, not post-dated checks which is the norm in this industry. *Yan ang* producer *na masarap tulungan dahil totoong may malasakit.*"

Marc Logan makes his mark

Marc Logan's "Pinoy Exposed" is causing quite a stir in the TV ratings game. Logan is also the voice behind many interesting segments on "TV Patrol," with a distinct style all his own.

"Pinoy Exposed" is about ordinary Filipinos who are capable of doing extraordinary things and performing death-defying stunts.

The past few months also saw Logan busy with the impeachment trial and Edsa protests. Way to go!

'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress'

We were lucky to have caught the last performance of Alan Ball's "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" at the GSIS Theater.

Playing the five women wearing the same tacky bridesmaid outfit are Lara Fabregas, Rachel Alejandro, Miren Alvarez, Cris Villonco and Dindi Gallardo. Gallardo has depth and class as a theater actress.

Fabregas keeps on getting better and experience has taught her to modulate her voice. Villonco is perfectly cast as the naïve and virginal, ultra-Christian right-wing girl, and Alejandro is very natural as the lesbian with a hearty appetite for food. But it's Alvarez who steals most of the scenes and you've got to watch out for her.

Lee Robin Salazar is the only bird among the flowers in the play and he is consistently charming and in character.

"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" will have a repeat on Feb. 17 at the Music Museum. Don't miss it because it's about everything we still do not know about women. For the repeat, Kate Fernandez takes on Alejandro's role.

Love the Supreme Beloved

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

LOVE is an enlightened condition; it is lust that is blind. Love is based on wisdom and truth, while lust is based on ignorance and foolishness.

Test of time

Love is a soul-to-soul relationship and not body-to-body. A person who loves does not relate to the body's beauty, name or fame. Instead, he sees the eternal, spiritual being within the body and relates to that individual as a child of the Supreme. In this way, his love withstands the test of time and surpasses physical difficulties.

Every soul yearns for love; every being needs to love and be loved. It is not a need that is impossible to satisfy. Yet, it requires prayer to discover the storehouse of such love.

We have been hurt and heartbroken not by loving but by lustful relationships. Lustful people tend to exploit and be utilitarian in their dealings. If you want to sincerely love, avoid lust.

Love is associated with sacrificing and the natural tendency to please the one you love. The more you give, the happier you become. Lust is associated with material enjoyment and the desire to make oneself experience pleasure. The more you keep, the greedier you become.

Symptom of lust

Hurting others is not a sign of love; it is a symptom of lust and its handmaidens include anger, envy, jealousy, etc.

The greatest people who have lived on this earth are those who have loved the most.

The most loving people can discipline their senses and control their sensual urges. They do not use others for their sense gratification, nor treat them as slaves.

If you want to love, stop thinking about yourself all the time!

A life of loving is satisfying. A life of lusting is frustrating.

Love springs from having a personal relationship with the Supreme Lover. By being linked with the source of all true love, we experience the sweetest taste of reciprocating with the most perfect lover.

Real

He is real and He invites each one into this realm of eternal, satisfying love. He waits for you and me.

Mundane relationships burn people out but spiritual love nourishes and invigorates the soul.

Those who want a lasting relationship should turn their eyes on the Supreme Person who can surpass all the eras of change and transport us to a world of imperishable love and beauty.

Love is for you and me. The Supreme Beloved loves you and me. Turn to Him. Love Him!

MTV celebrates move to Channel 41 with big party

MTV Philippines is finally airing 24 hours a day, seven days a week non-stop on UHF Channel 41 To celebrate this occasion, MTV is throwing a big open-air concert, and everyone is invited.

Natural high

Experience a natural high as you party with MTV at The Fort on Feb. 17, starting at 8 p.m., with special appearances by MTV VJs Donita Rose, Belinda Panelo, KC Montero and Sarah Meier.

Dance the night away with foreign acts Plus One and Collective Soul, together with Philippines' homegrown talents like Eraserheads, Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya, Wolfgang, Razorback, Teeth, Sandwich, Slapshock, Brownbeat All Stars, Passage, Barbie's Cradle, Cynthia Alexander, Kaya, The Dawn, Side A and lots more!

The Philippine Navy Band, Marine Drum Band and Bugle Choir will also be at hand playing the latest MTV hit songs on the MTV charts. Catch the MTV crew in action as they cover the concert live. Relive the experience as MTV Philippines airs "The Rebirth Concert Special" on March 17, 1 to 3 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. with repeats on March 25, 1 to 3 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m.

Exciting event

Says Peter Bullard, senior VP and managing director of MTV Southeast Asia: "We are thrilled to give Filipinos a chance to do some serious partying to celebrate a truly exciting event: the launch of MTV Philippines on UHF Channel 41."

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SNEAK PREVIEW

'Cast Away' pares survivor scenario down to its most basic elements

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR their latest film project, director Robert Zemeckis and actor Tom Hanks have chosen a particularly difficult format: a survival story involving a cast of one—no friendly, helpful natives like Robinson Crusoe's Man Friday, no pirates like "Gilligan's Island," no ultra-competitive adventurers like "Survivor."

Latest collaboration

"Cast Away," The Zemeckis-Hanks team's latest collaboration after "Forest Gump," pares the survivor scenario down to its most basic elements: man versus nature, man learning to understand and cooperate with nature, man versus himself, man learning how to master himself—and thus, to save himself.

This is a rigorous format that most filmmakers would balk at attempting, but Zemeckis has a superstar and one of the world's most popular movie actors in Hanks, so he takes the plunge.

He figures that, with his well-liked star *and* astute storytelling, his movie can sustain viewers' interest despite its near-total lack of complications and plot twists.

So, does the film succeed at the tough task it's set for itself? Uh, not quite. Its focus is earnest and intense, but we sometimes find our attention wandering. We see how hard the production is working at getting us to empathize with Hanks' character throughout the film, but our interest sometimes strays just the same.

In trouble

In the film, Hanks' character works for Federal Express and is in love with a wonderful woman (Helen Hunt) whom he wants to marry. Alas, on a seemingly ordinary cargo flight, the FedEx plane suddenly finds itself in trouble and crashes into the ocean.

When Hanks regains consciousness, he realizes that he's the only survivor, and that his world has suddenly been compressed into this tiny South Sea island, that will turn out to be his "home" for four long, seemingly interminable years.

During all that time, he goes through many phases: he tries to row away from the island but is foiled by huge waves; he succumbs to fits of depression; he learns to survive by making fire, finding fresh sources of fresh water, etc., rethinks his priorities in life, and finally effects a better-planned escape from his island-prison.

HANKS. Lessons about living and loving.

Memory

But the story doesn't end there. After he returns to his original world, he finds out that the woman he loves, the one whose memory has kept him from losing hope all these years, has married somebody else.

This comes as a huge shock to Hanks. After coping with total loneliness for four years, he must now struggle to deal with this new trial, to keep from giving up on life once more.

But he finds the task easier this time—precisely because his life on the island has changed and matured him, and made him wise beyond his years. After triumphing over the worst that nature can dish out, what's one more low blow, even if it is delivered by the person he loves most?

Corollary

An interesting corollary to this is provided by Hank's only "friend" on the island: a Wilson volleyball to which he gives a human face and converses with, to keep his sanity. Towards the end, even this inanimate "friend" leaves him, so Hanks is compelled to depend only on himself. Thus, when even Hunt's love fails him, Hanks doesn't buckle under.

The people behind this film hope that viewers will also learn this and other lessons about living and loving. That's why they made Hanks' character far from perfect and subjected him to such terrible ordeals, to prove that practically anybody can similarly triumph against awesome adversity.

But the movie's attention level periodically dips, and some flaws blunt the film's impact—the absence of animals on the island, the "miraculous" rescue towards the end, etc.

However, these pale in comparison to the movie's greatest lack: emotion. In terms of heightened feeling, the film really peaks only when Hanks meets Hunt after his rescue.

Bittersweet meeting

Their bittersweet meeting is truly heartrending because the promise of her love was what sustained Hank for all those years on the island. But other attempts at eliciting an empathetic emotional response aren't as successful.

Also lacking in the movie is any reference to God. While it's admirable that Hanks' character is finally able to effect his escape from the island, his lack of faith in anything or anyone other than himself limits the movie.

To many viewers, faith *isn't* a sop or cop-out, and in fact sustains them during their own worst moments--so, in their view, its absence from this movie prevents the film from soaring as high as it could have.

There's more to Ana Capri than her readiness to dare and bare

CAPRI. Here for the long haul.

By Edmund L. Sicam

ANA Capri is not your everyday, run-of-the-mill bold star. In fact, it's probably unfair to call her a bold star because she's proven in some of her movies that she is an accomplished actress, who just happens to bare a lot of skin on the big screen.

We talked to her recently during the presscon for her latest film, Joey Reyes' "Toro," retitled "Live Show" for local consumption, and were pleasantly surprised to discover that there's more to her than her shapely curves.

Virginity

For instance, it's traditional to ask sexy stars when and how they lost their virginity. Ana has no qualms about answering the question: She lost it at 17 to a man she was in love with ("I did it for the right reason") and they were together for four years. More importantly, she considered the event a learning experience, part of growing up, and also something she's been able to use in furthering her craft as an actress. Although she didn't end up with the guy and is now seeing another man, she regards that episode in her life as truly memorable.

Ana realizes that all her movies so far have capitalized on her physical appearance. However, she knows that her looks will fade but her mind will outlast the deterioration of her physical attributes. Thus, she continues to gain knowledge from her experiences and other resources available to her, such as books and the mass media. Then she floors us by commenting, "*Habang may nalalaman ako, ang* feeling *ko mas wala akong alam.*"

Impressive for a 21-year-old, whose educational background is one year of college at Centro Escolar University, and she wasn't even a Philosophy major. She majored in Tourism and dreamt of being an international stewardess someday.

She grew up in Infanta, Quezon, the youngest of three children. In fact, her real name, Infan is based on her hometown. Her family name, Avanico, does not befit a sexy star so, like most other bold actresses, she underwent an "exotic" name change.

She was discovered by controversial talent manager Jojo Veloso at the Mount Carmel Church in Infanta. Jojo was scouting for models to join the "Face of the Year" contest.

Modeling career

Ana was all set to pursue a modeling career when she appeared in a bit role in a GMA telemovie where she acted with director Celso Ad. Castillo. Although she had no speaking lines in the show, she felt she had to react to a scene where Celso, who played her husband, was hurt.

That must have impressed the maverick director because, when he was looking for someone to cast as the young girl in the remake of "Virgin People," he thought of Ana. The movie required Ana to bare some skin and though the young actress (she was only 16) felt a bit uneasy about it, she managed to survive the ordeal.

The movie led to other roles which required her to disrobe, but Ana's acting talent shone through it all. Her performance in Jeffrey Jeturian's "Pila Balde" where she played a young breadwinner who had to survive in the slums of Metro Manila, was proof positive that Ana could act. Her winning the best actress award at Tikoy Aguiluz's Cine Manila International Film Festival validated this observation.

Ana had two explicit lovemaking scenes in the movie but they served not to titillate the audience's imagination but to bring out her character's tragic plight.

She loses her virginity to a guy she's infatuated with, who she hopes will rescue her from poverty. The whole thing is over in a few minutes and there is emptiness and sadness on her face as she reflects on her fate.

Exact opposite

Her other love scene is the exact opposite. She goes to bed with someone she's been ignoring for a long time because he is a slum dweller like her. In time, she finds out that he is the right man for her. There is a lot of love and tenderness in their sexual coupling, but we know that they have to face the reality of the cruel world sooner or later.

Ana tackled a more physically-demanding role in "Sa Paraiso ni Efren" where she plays the battered mistress of Anton Bernardo. The love scenes are violent and this time, Ana rolls with the punches (she actually enjoys the pain) until she can no longer take it.

In her next movie, "Live Show," she plays a "*torero*" who is also a drug addict. It's another depressing role. She didn't actually watch a live show to prepare for her role but borrowed porno tapes to get ideas. Mostly, however, she depended on director Joey Reyes' instructions. It was another learning experience for Ana as she had to learn different sexual positions such as "Dama" and "helicopter."

In many of her movies, she plays young characters who mature fast because of the harsh world they are thrust into. In person, Ana is a little like that, although she's not as materially deprived as her characters. She is determined to succeed in her craft and keeps hoping she's making the right moves. She's aware that show biz is an unstable business, so she's careful about her money.

Lately, she's found another shelter for her earnings. She now has a dollar account which started when she appeared in a German production "Manila," where she co-starred with Chin Chin Gutierrez and Ces Quesada.

Mistakes

The young actress is demanding on herself when it comes to her career. She says there's room for mistakes in her career but not too many.

As far as her love life is concerned she says, "*Walang nabubuhay sa* love *lang. Hindi rin puedeng* lust *lang. Pagsasawaan mo rin yun.* You have to balance the two."

Eventually, she wants to reach the point where she doesn't have to undress for a living. She's more choosy about her scripts, preferring those that make sense. When you've done movies for Maryo de los Reyes, Jeffrey Jeturian, and Joey Reyes, that's understandable.

She will soon start shooting for Chito Roño's "Dekada 70," another prestige project, so her wish is coming true.

Bold stars come and go, but Ana Capri is here for the long haul—and we wouldn't be surprised if she becomes one of our more important actresses in the next few years.

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ABS-CBN Foundation volunteers serve the people

AT the height of the mass rallies at Edsa last month, ABS-CBN's staffers was right where the action was. As expected, the network's News & Current Affairs Division was reporting the news live, but there was also another ABS-CBN group hard at work.

First aid

The ABS-CBN Foundation's Social Service Club (SSC) volunteers were giving out free food, water and first aid. They also teamed up with the Bantay Kalikasan Volunteers to help spearhead the clean-up of the Edsa area afterwards.

The SSC is a strong force of about 260 dedicated and civic minded individuals, also known as the ABS-CBN Foundation Volunteers. Formally established in June 1993, the SSC is composed of students and young professionals who unselfishly dedicate their time and efforts to year-round emergency relief operations, medical missions, gift-giving projects and other outreach and charity undertakings.

Through the years, the SSC has responded to such major disasters as the Pinatubo eruption and the lahar floodings, typhoon Rosing, the Cherry Hills tragedy, the Payatas garbage slide and the armed conflict in Mindanao.

To monitor any disastrous occurrence, the SSC has a 24-hour operations center manned by volunteers.

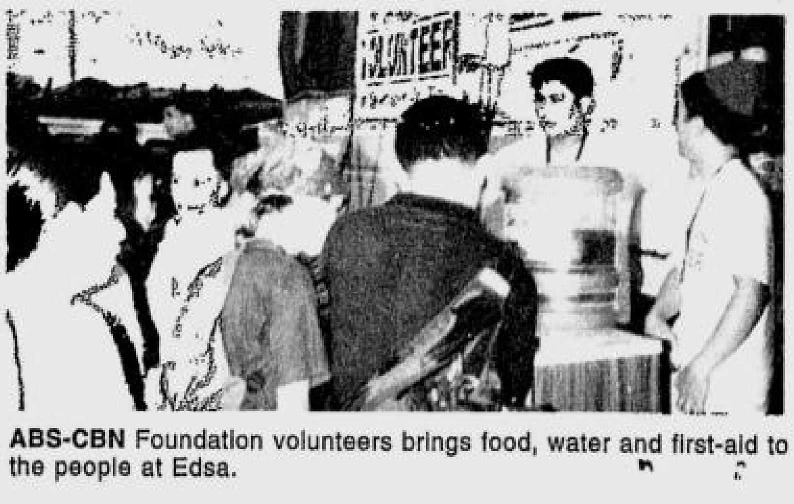
Outreach projects

Meanwhile, the SSC's outreach projects include the Geny Lopez Soup Kitchen, outreach drives for the disabled and for children, and its annual Christmas gift-giving. Likewise, grassroots medical missions have reached far-flung provinces and urban areas, serving more than 30,000 Filipinos—mostly children.

For its members, the SSC conducts regular training and seminars on disaster preparedness, first aid, weather forecasting and leadership camp to help equip them with the necessary skills.

The SSC is headed by Henry Paje, a nurse who joined the ABS-CBN Foundation as SSC coordinator in 1996. He says that in terms of human suffering, the armed conflict in Mindanao is their most vital mission. Aside from the effects on the displaced families who are still suffering, some of their own volunteers experienced cultural shock on the first few days of their stay there.

SSC's members look forward to 2001 as it has been declared the International Year of Volunteerism by the United Nations.



ABS-CBN Foundation volunteers brings food, water and first-aid to the people at Edsa.

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Most romantic songs ever written

By Mary Ann A. Bautist.

FILIPINOS can be sentimental and romantic. Just listen to FM radio all day long everyday and you'll discover that the most requested tunes are usually ballads.

Alternative tunes

But alternative tunes like Alanis Morissette's "Head Over Feet," Santana's "Maria, Maria" and Madonna's "This Used To Be My Playground" can be just as romantic and touching as ballads. Any song can make you emotional if it strikes the right chord/feeling.

Side A band has been singing pop cover songs and ballads since they started. Their fans always ask them to sing "Foolish Heart" but they all agree that "Forevermore" is the most romantic song for them. Aside from expressing their undying devotion to their respective wives, they add that they were feeling very romantic when they composed that song.

Jeremy Mhire of Plus One feels that "The Way You Look Tonight" (from Julia Robert's "My Best Friend's Wedding") truly reveals how he feels about the woman in his life. "It's timeless. It's the perfect romantic song that makes you want to cuddle and be close to each other," he gushes.

Intense

Barbie Almabis of Barbie's Cradle votes for "Crazy Love" by Van Morrison. Barbie raves, "It's intense without being too mushy!"

Clara of Myx likes "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and Blink 182's "My Girlfriend." She doesn't listen to slow songs but loves fast upbeat tunes. "I want real words, not just mushy, sentimental ones. I don't go for sappy tunes," she sniffs.

Kaz of Myx listens to jazz tunes when she's feeling romantic. She likes Ella Fitzgerald and Louie Armstrong's version of "Dancing Cheek to Cheek."

On the other hand, Ed singles out Brian McKnight's "6 8 12" because it explores how men can also get lonely when their loved ones are far from them.

John of Myx notes that even Gregorian chants can be romantic! Pressed for a particular song, John opts for two songs: "I Love Borgie" by Nina Simone and "Goodbye to Romance," because they give them a sense of being in love.

" 'Goodbye to Romance' always reminds me of the lack of romance in my life. Whenever I feel that I have to divert my attention to romantic stuff, I listen to that song," he sighs.

Pops Fernandez singles out Ronan Keating's "When You Say Nothing At All" because love shouldn't just be said, but should also be felt.

Actions

"That song expresses how I love my sons, Robin and Ram. Actions speak louder than words and I always try to show them that they're important to me. Even if I'm working, they're always on my mind," she says.

Zsa Zsa Padilla loves "If" because it's her theme song with Dolphy. "Love should be unconditional. When you have a family, love deepens. In any relationship, there are problems but you have to make it work," she intones.

Chad Borja believes in the "Real Thing." He says that even if his partner is far away, he doesn't forget her. Absence indeed makes the heart grow fonder.

Real thing

"I have a high standard in loving someone. I don't go for looks only but I want someone who can give me the real thing. There's a line in that song that goes: Someone who can catch me when I fall, because I don't love for a day but forever," he shares.

Jose Mari Chan feels that his songs "Please Be Careful With My Heart" and "Beautiful Girl" give him the feeling of being in love. He says, "When you fall in love, you feel high, when you fall out of love *wala ka nang pakiramdam*. But pain and love are sometimes interchangeable. How would you know you love someone if you don't feel any pain?

"If you love someone, you will encounter problems but you try to work things out. My wife and I try to keep romance burning even if we've been married for a long time!"

MYX singers (from left) Kaz, Ed, Clara and John.

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Kuh Ledesma on love and politics

By Edmund L. Sicam

THERE will be no nationalistic songs during Kuh Ledesma's Valentine concert, "Symphony in K" at the Hard Rock Cafe on Feb. 14. Certainly, "Ako Ay Pilipino" will not be part of the repertoire. The song has been maligned for being a propaganda piece for the Marcos dictatorship. That is unfortunate since the song itself is a good musical piece.

Happy love songs

There will only be love songs, most of them happy ones, Kuh promises. A year ago, this disclaimer would not have been necessary but, since Edsa Two, the singer has been very active in artist groups that want to make a difference in the nation's development. She is involved in Artista para sa Pagbabago, which has committed itself to having the artists' voices heard by government.

While other show biz personalities are lining up to file their electoral bids, Kuh is not joining the queue. She is definitely not running for public office. Instead, she wants to campaign for party list representatives. The one she's supporting is called Pinatubo, a group committed to help the less fortunate in improving their quality of life.

This, the group wants to accomplish not through handouts but through micro-financing or providing funds for livelihood programs. In other words, instead of giving fish to the poor, teach them how to fish so they can be self-sufficient, and not depend on dole-outs.

Pinatubo is spearheaded by former congressman Phillip Camara, who believes that the present system of "*pinatulo*" where the funds are allowed to trickle down to the low income group, doesn't work. Most of the time, the funds don't get down at all. With Pinatubo, the idea is for the economic development to start from below.

Sectoral representatives

It takes 500,000 votes to elect a sectoral representative. Kuh says the group hopes to convince 1.5 million Filipinos to cast their lot with Pinatubo so they can have three representatives in Congress.

Aside from the sectoral reps, Kuh wants to look for good people to support in the local elections – not just on the mayoralty and vice-mayoralty level but also on the councilors' level. She believes in supporting good people, no matter what party they belong to.

This is a big change for the singer, who has always been identified with the world of music. That commitment led to her putting up Music Museum, but that didn't turn out well. The place even burned down. Not one to be discouraged by setbacks, Kuh put up Republic of Malate, a music place on a smaller scale and, this time, it seems the concept is working. That has given Kuh more time to pursue other interests, like her religious projects and now, her political aspirations.

LEDESMA. Not running for public office.

Intimate venue

On Feb. 14, however, Kuh will temporarily take a break from the serious work she's doing to pursue another serious interest, which is singing. She will be accompanied by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra string section with Rey Cristobal as musical director.

She wants to sing classical love songs, melodies to reminisce on, as well as the newer love songs for the Gentext generation. She likes the intimacy of a small venue like Hard Rock because she can be close to her audience, the better to share her experiences in love, both joyful and bittersweet.

Like most lovers, Kuh has had her share of joys and heartaches in her love life but now, as a married woman and mother of one, Kuh offers a new perspective that should prove valuable to her audience, both married and unmarried.

When the concerts (she has other shows this week) are over, it's back to organizing work for Kuh as well as management of her small Republic. A woman's work is never done!

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB. 10 – 16

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Star Drama Theater 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren / "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10.15 Fashion Watch 10.45 Olympic Primer 11.15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Kakabakaba 8:00 Kiss Muna 9:30 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club 1:00 Jesus Miracle Crusade	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	4.00 MBA 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *Grammy Nominations* 8:00 E! Special *The Corrs in Taiwan* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Rona Barrett* 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On: *Bahamas*
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sullada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 GMA Love Stories 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Sunday Night Specials 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 A Little Night of Music 1.00 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Timecop 7:00 Dawson's Creek 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Will and Grace 9:00 Veronica's Closet 9:30 Wasteland 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 E! Special *Grammy Nominations* 7:00 E! Special *Grammy Awards Pre-Show* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Bettie Page* 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Janine Turner* 12:00 CBS Evenings News
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Beach Patrol 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Tuwing Kapiling Ka 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club 12:30 Midnight Prayer Helps	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Greed 7:30 Making the Band 8.00 Time of Your Life 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Unbreakable* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Ava Gardner* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Corey Feldman* 10:00 David Letterman Show
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 Team Knight Rider 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 11:30 700 Club 12:00 Pulpit of Christ	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Popular 8:30 Beverly Hills 90210 9:30 Then Came You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11.15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Vertical Limit* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Marlene Dietrich* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *Anna Nicole Smith* 10:00 David Letterman Show
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9.00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10.15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 To be announced 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12.00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12.45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *What Women Want* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Merle Oberon* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Oksana Baiul* 10:00 David Letterman Show
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6.30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6.30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9.00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 I For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 700 Club 12:30 Word of Hope	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7.00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Untamed Heart* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *The Family Man* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Carole Landis* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Jean Carmen* 10:00 David Letterman Show
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11.00 Rosalinda 11:30 Jullie 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7.00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Fushigi Yuugi 8:30 Bubble Gang 10:00 What Went Wrong 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Cineline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Reminiscing 3* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Gloria Grahame* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *Phil Hartman* 10:00 David Letterman Show

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"TANGING YAMAN" clicked with viewers despite its lack of sex and violence, but the lesson it taught has quickly been unlearned.

Back to the boldies

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LAST Metro Manila Film Festival made a good impression on moviegoers with its relatively outstanding and non-exploitative official entries. As a result, most of the filmfest entries enjoyed enthusiastic patronage.

Instructive

It was instructive to note that two of the festival's most wholesome entries, "Tanging Yaman" and Spirit Warriors," made the most money at the tills, despite the fact that they had no sex and violence.

We hoped that producers would learn from the positive experience of the Metro filmfest and realize that the moviegoing public as a whole wants to see good, inspiring family films more than skin and shootouts.

Well, it looks like most producers aren't ready, willing or able to learn that lesson, because most of the local movies shown thus far this year have been sexy flicks.

Worthy films

Yes, folks, it's back to the boldies once more, and producers don't seem to care if they're eroding all of the goodwill that the recent Metro filmfest's worthy films have earned them in the eyes of the public.

The producers explain that they really have no choice: Most of the sexy movies shown starting last month are productions that were filmed a long time ago. Their showing had to be deferred due to the public outcry against excessively sexy movies last year. Other sexy films tried to get into the Metro filmfest, but failed.

So, producers wail, the money they've invested in these bold productions has been "sleeping" for months or even years. Therefore, they *have* to show them now, to recoup their investment.

More time

As for the "Tanging Yaman"-type films—yes, they would want to produce those movies, but they'll take more time before they can reach the screen. At the moment, their priority is to get their "aging" sexy films shown *now*.

Well, it's good to know the producers' logic, but the fact remains that we're getting too many sexy movies now for the viewing public and even the industry's own good. Two out of four and sometimes even three out of four of the new local films that open in town these days are sex-oriented productions.

Producers shouldn't dump their sexy movies on the market in such huge numbers. They are courting the ire of parents and educators who dislike the dominance of sex and violence over our film culture.

Sex trend

During the Metro filmfest, they were happy to see that our filmmakers were capable of making good, wholesome movies, but it's disillusionment time again. If the sex trend continues, the industry could find itself at loggerheads with influential elements of society once more.

The solution? Release those "old" sexy flicks in *small* doses—don't dump them on the public, like what's happening now. And, fast-track the production of good, wholesome, inspiring movies—they really are what the big youth and family audiences want to see.

Criticism

Why, despite all the criticism it has been getting, does the local movie industry persist in churning out sex flicks? Some filmmakers say they do sex-dramas to "liberate" viewers from conservative and even hypocritical sex practices and attitudes that limit their development as thinking, feeling, loving people.

—Uh, while that *may* be true for a few, let's face it, the truth is, most of our producers prefer to do sexy flicks because they're relatively cheap and quick to make. *And*, if they are made controversial enough through canny manipulation of the censorship-classification system, they can make a mint at the box office.

Publicity

That's why you read a lot of publicity these days about sexy movies that have been "X-ed," and bold stars boasting about the hottest scenes in their latest erotic flicks. The operative word in this whole sexy shebang isn't "liberation," it's "profit."

So what are we poor, put-upon, endlessly-manipulated viewers to do? We must realize that we *are* being taken for a ride, and decide to fight back by making more careful decisions about the movies we see.

Vote

Let's remind ourselves that the movie ticket we buy is our *vote* for the kind of movies that we think should be made. If we see a sexy-cheapie-quickie flick, we are *endorsing* the production of that kind of film. If we decide to view a good, perceptive, inspiring film—and if many other people also do so—that's what producers will want to make.

We keep blaming our film people for the mess we're in. It's time to face up to the fact that we're their accomplices in the "crimes" of exploitation and idioticization of local movies and the local film audience.

MERK. Explores possibilities outside the standard melody.

New CD reflects Richard Merk's musical outlook

By Pablo A. Tariman

IN HIS first CD called "Jazz in Time" released by Premium Star Records, jazz vocalist Richard Merk interprets 11 songs, on which he imprints his own jazz imprimatur.

Old favorites

The songs include old favorites such as Rodgers and Hammerstein's "I Have Dreamed" (from "The King and I"), Gerry Paraiso's "You," and Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie Amour."

In every song, Merk explores possibilities outside the standard melody and lures the CD collector to listen to the song for a second time, wrapped in the upbeat idiom of jazz.

In the first song, "Hello" (Lionel Richie), you hear the jazzy entrance of the alto saxophone (Tots Tolentino), drums (Roy Mercado), bass (Roger Herrera), and guitar (Rudy Lozano), with Rey Cristobal keeping the jazz flow free and easy on his keyboard.

The same hip rhythm applies to "Every Breath You Take" (Sting), where Tots Tolentino's soprano saxophone hits a romantic pitch while the rest of the ensemble sustains its taut, if easy, pace.

Soloist

It is an upbeat kind of rhythm that sets the mood for the whole album. Easily, you get to hear an entire jazz ensemble attuned to their soloist.

While the first two songs set you in an upbeat mood, the succeeding songs, "Two For the Road" (Mancini and Bricuse), "I Have Dreamed" (Rodgers and Hammerstein II) and "You" (Gerry Paraiso) lead you down a nostalgia road. Here is jazz rhythm with another beat, the slowness of which recalls the unhurried pace of the last two decades.

There are two sides of Merk that bring out the best in him as vocalist. When the pace is as fast as in the first two entries, his vocal approach is brisk and edgy, with an element of surprise ending his songs.

When it comes to old songs, however, he sings them with inner fervor and opts for a jazzy tempo that allows you to mark that moment and relate it with another time, another era. As he sings them with extra warmth and with the jazz rhythm unperturbed, you see images of a time gone by.

This is especially true with "Save Your Heart For Me" (Geld and Vdell), "My Cherie Amour" (Wonder/Cosby) and "For Once in My Life" (O. Murden).

Nostalgia

Even as the songs are limned with nostalgia, Merk allows you to enjoy his vocal improvisations in "My Cherie Amour" and ends it with outright zing.

Another plus for this record is the jazz ensemble under keyboard player Roy Herrera, with the guest appearance of saxophone player Tots Tolentino in some of the songs.

Herrera's arrangements—thoroughly discussed with the vocalist—have the indelible stamp of jazz on them as it should be enjoyed—free, spontaneous and, as it were, contagious.

Tolentino never fails to put a special highlight to the songs, as he does in "Fallin'" (Sager/Hamlisch) and "Get Back" (Lennon/McCartney). The sound of sax simply jibes with the vocalist's jazz rhythm and, almost always, they complement each other.

The concluding song, "I Offer My Life," allows the listener a peek into the singer's spiritual outlook. It sums up Merk's reason for being as he lives life fervently with his loved one.

On the whole, the main virtue of this recording is that Merk invites you to listen to old favorites and makes sure you hear them in another way—in the realm of jazz.

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Jojo Zabarte, school directress

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

JOSEPHINE K. Zabarte, better known as Jojo to her friends, stands a head taller than most women. The extra inches are part of the physical features inherited from her part-Danish dad, Sea Captain Jose Kierulf.

But Jojo is prouder of the fact that she has a bachelor's degree in education from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

Motto

Today, she is school directress of Sacred Heart Academy Novaliches (SHAN), where the motto is "Discipline, Leadership and Involvement." She best embodies these ideals.

"I am not the sit-down kind of administrator," Jojo says. She constantly moves about the premises, personally checking up on the facilities and classrooms, looking in on the teaching staff, always personally involved.

Indeed, a string of "Good morning, Mrs. Zabarte," greetings trails her, as students move around her. Faculty and students have only praises for her openmindedness and supportive attitude.

"We have no complaints, we can talk to her and we can expect full understanding regarding our needs," Ms Puntillas, an English teacher, says, echoed by Mrs. Velas and Mrs. Areola.

Awards

The students' numerous awards inspire Jojo to improve the school further, aiming one day to transform it into a university. SHAN is champion of the Quezon City division of the Private Schools Baskteball and Volleyball League (PSBVL), and a group of their students also won fourth place in Sabayang Pagbigkas in a Speech Festival, in competition with prominent schools. Third Year student Timothy Javier won third place in he Dramatic Monologue category in a tilt under the Catholic Educational Association of the Phils. (CEAP). Russel Gabiola won second place in the LG Digital Quiz in Grade 6, was first in declamation when she was in Grade 5, and won second place in "Battle of the Brains" in 1996.

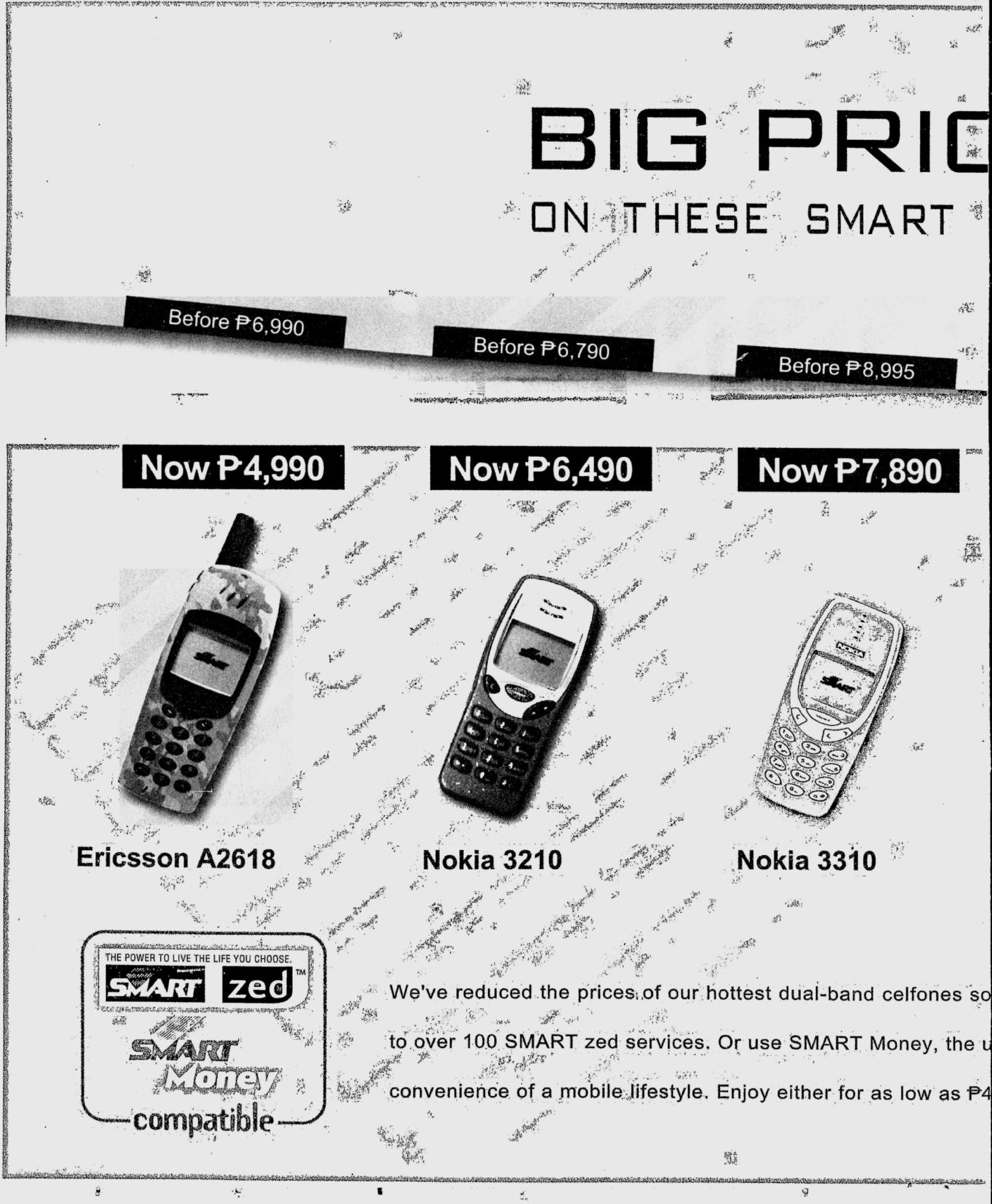
Branches

There are two other branches, Sacred Heart Academy Retiro (SHAR), the original school established in 1947, and the newest, Sacred Heart Academy Pasig or SHAP. Both are managed by Jojo's younger brother, Jose Antonio or Joey, who studied marketing economics at Woodbury University in California, USA.

Jojo's keen interest in the welfare of her students and the community they belong to reflects well in the achievements of her students who have gotten 100 percent passing grade in the National Secondary Achievement Test (NSAT) for the past 10 years. SHAN students have an excellent acceptance rate in top colleges and universities.

All the Sacred Heart Academy schools have state-of-the-art computer and audio-visual equipment, a comprehensive curriculum, full-time laboratory instruction and over 70 hours of computer instruction per year, with free internet access and an expert teaching staff.

ZABARTE (seated, left) with high school students.



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Superstar versus Jukebox Queen

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

NOW that the smoke has cleared and we have a new president, a lot of actors who have been dreaming of entering politics have resumed gearing up for the coming electoral race. Unfazed by what happened to former President Joseph Estrada, they are still hoping that their stellar pull would translate into votes once the ballots are cast.

And since there are only a limited number of offices to cover, some of them are inevitably being pitted against each other.

Rivalries

One of the hottest political rivalries that has been brewing since their intention to run was announced is that of superstar Nora Aunor and jukebox queen Imelda Papin.

Both have signified their desire to serve the people of Bicol and although they would be running for different positions (Nora as governor and Imelda as vice governor), the noises from both camps have been escalating to a full-blown barrage now that the campaign period is near at hand.

Obviously and expectedly, the two stars are trying to outshine each other in terms of qualifications and mass appeal.

Since I know Nora and Imelda fairly well, having worked with them a number of times in the past, I believe that I am in a position to give you a chance to get to know them better:

Imelda Papin is the Philippines' original jukebox queen. She had been a struggling singer, though, long before anyone had a clue about who she was. Eventually, she had her first hit, "Bakit?," that established her name in the '80s.

Byword

It was later followed by other hits that made her a byword, especially among music lovers in the provinces. To say that she became as big as Nora Aunor would be way off the mark, of course. But in fairness, she was a star in her own right.

Known to always cry whenever she'd sing songs about heartbreak (such as the now classic line "*Kung liligaya ka sa piling iba ...*"), Imelda captured the listening public's fancy by way of her amusing and endearing performance gimmicks.

As a person, Imelda is very easy to please (in Tagalog, "*mababaw ang kaligayahan*"). She also knows what she wants and won't stop until she gets it, no matter if she had to try again and again or even wait until her timing is right.

AUNOR AND PAPIN. **Time to take stock of their prospects and options.**

I got to know her a little better when I consented to become godmother to her daughter (by Bong Carreon), Mafi. We had so many funny and memorable moments together.

Surprised

When I heard of Imelda's first political candidacy, I was genuinely surprised. For years, I had known Imelda as a loyalist (to the Marcoses). Yet all those times, I never heard her mention any desire to become a politician, not even when I bumped into her in the States just before she came back here to resume singing and to pursue a political career.

Perhaps it was her constant association with former First Lady Imelda Marcos that put that idea into her head. I saw her transform from being a simple woman to a woman who knew how to deal with all kinds of people and how to act accordingly in social gatherings, just like Mrs. Marcos.

Eventually, when she had developed enough confidence, Imelda ran for councilor. Unfortunately, she lost and I thought that was the end of it. But, no, she later resurfaced and finally became vice governor.

On the other hand, when I found our about Nora's plans to run as governor, I thought it was just her unpredictability manifesting itself.

SUPERSTAR/ P. F6

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Bold films and naughty songs for Valentine's Day--and after

By Remy M. Umerez

IF YOU are aged 50 and above, you will have warm recollections of the kind of Valentine treats Sampaguita Pictures used to prepare. "Historia de Un Amor" was most memorable because it had four love stories featuring a galaxy of glamorous stars.

Screen lovers

Gloria Romero, Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Marlene Dauden, Barbara Perez and their respective screen lovers like Luis Gonzales, Eddie Gutierrez, Juancho Gutierrez and Romeo Vasquez and, years later, the members of Stars '66 (led by Gina Pareño and Rosemarie) were reasons enough for fans to make a beeline for Life Theater on Valentine's Day.

Recently, we got a kick watching a Valentine offering from Regal shown on TV, directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes. It was an early '80s film featuring the love teams of Martin and Pops, Janno and Manilyn, Maricel and William.

Fast-forward to the present:

During the premiere night of "The Virgin Wife" at the UP Film Center, Piel Morena wore a revealing see-through gown. The film is one of the two bold movies to be shown this Valentine week.

According to Piel, it is her most daring movie to date, and she wishes it would be the last. "It is not only the boldest but also the best of the 10 movies I have done. I am very proud of it," she said.

Even bolder is Regal Entertainment's "Live Show" by Jose Javier Reyes. The film gives us an understanding of what live sex performers are made of and how they look at life from the small wooden stage where they perform their sleazy acts.

MORENA. Plays the title role in "The Virgin Wife."

When screened last year at the Berlin International Film Festival, viewers were impressed by the performance of Ana Capri.

Frustration

Ana plays Rosita, a *torera* who gave away her, son years ago and now wants him back. The frustration leads her to become a drug addict who tried to commit suicide.

Ana found doing the *toro* scenes embarrassing because of the spectators who were required to watch as part of the scene. These sentiments are shared by her co-stars, Hazel Espinosa and Klaudia Koronel.

Novelty tracks

As bold stars prefer to call their film "sexy," Rufa Mae Quinto describes her "Rated R" album as simply "naughty." There are 13 novelty tracks in the album, which reflects Rufa Mae's funny and sexy yet wholesome (figure that out) image.

Listen to songs like "Jumbo" ("Jambalaya"), "Lupaypay," "Bitin na Bitin" and "Booba" ("Do the Hustle") to determine under which category they really belong: *bastos* or naughty.

Songbird Allyna is giving Rufa Mae stiff competition with the release of "Hindi Na Masakit," a third single culled from her debut album. The title, though perceived to have double meaning, simply conveys a heartfelt plea aimed at lovers' vulnerable hearts.

Superstar . . .

(From page F5)

Political career

Earlier, there was talk of her running as mayor of Iriga City, then as congresswoman under this or that party, but nothing was officially substantiated. Besides, I have known Nora for years (in fact, I even shared the same room with her for weeks when we were in LA and Hawaii) and, in all our late-night "girl talks," she never mentioned anything about a political career.

If you have been following my column, you'd know that I have written about Nora a number of times in the past. Like Imelda, I also know her to be a very determined woman, with killer charms to boot. She is also very talented and smart, especially when it comes to getting what she wants. Simply, she knows how to win people to her side (she wouldn't be *the* Superstar if she didn't, right?).

She's also very playful in her own way. One time, she was confined in a hospital, and I decided to visit her. When I talked to her, nothing appeared to be out of the ordinary. We chatted the way we usually did. But the moment her mom (whom she calls "Mamay") stepped into the room, Nora started acting like crazy, pointing at butterflies that weren't there. When her mother eventually realized that it was Nora's way of teasing her, we all ended up in stitches.

Lucky star

Although I was quite reluctant to believe in her willingness and capacity to run for any public office, I wouldn't be surprised if Nora's lucky star would rally behind her once again to turn her political goals into reality. I often tease her that she could practically get away with murder if she so wished (she's that lucky!).

As for the two being friends, I wouldn't know. I have never seen them together (not even in a show). So, when did the problem arise? As far as I know, I think it happened when Imelda found out about Nora's intention to run for governor under a different party. When I called to ask Imelda how she felt about Nora's entry into her turf, she cooly replied, "Entitled *naman siguro siya do'n,* Ate Luds."

Later, however, Nora's manager, Norie Sayo, phoned me and asked if it was true that Imelda said Nora was unfit to run for any public office because Nora was "a drug addict." Apparently, some Noranians from Bicol informed Norie that Imelda went on-air on a Bicol radio station after my interview, stating that accusation.

Of course, I told Norie that, at least as far as my interview with Imelda went, the latter didn't say anything to that effect. But just to get the facts, I again phoned Imelda in Bicol and asked her to comment on Norie's query.

"Ate Luds, *wala po akong sinasabi na* drug addict si Ate Guy!" Imelda said on-air.

Assistant

But it didn't stop there. Imelda went on to say that, during one of the shows the two performed in, Imelda noticed that Nora was nowhere to be seen. When she asked Nora's assistant for the superstar's whereabouts, she was promptly directed to the CR, where she found Nora on the floor. In Imelda's words, she thought Nora was "groggy" but she never said that Nora was into drugs.

Norie then issued a statement from Nora: *"Umiinom ako, pero 'di ako* addict." Further, someone insisted that she has on tape a copy of the broadcast where Imelda said on-air in Bicol that Nora Aunor was an addict. I have yet to get a copy of the tape, however.

This seemingly simple story soon spawned instant reactions from Noranians and the fans of Imelda. An Imelda fan said on-air, *"Sabihin nyo kay* Nora, *ayusin muna n'ya yung pamilya n'ya, watak-watak. Ayusin muna n'ya at baka ma-*interview *pa ang mga anak..."*

To which a Noranian retaliated, *"Sabihin din n'yo kay* Imelda, *marami kaming alam sa kanya. Ang hirap kasi kay* Imelda, feeling *n'ya si* Imelda Marcos *siya. Di naman kasing-ganda! Kung si* Nora drug addict, *si* Imelda *nagpapaturok ng gamot para bumata!"*

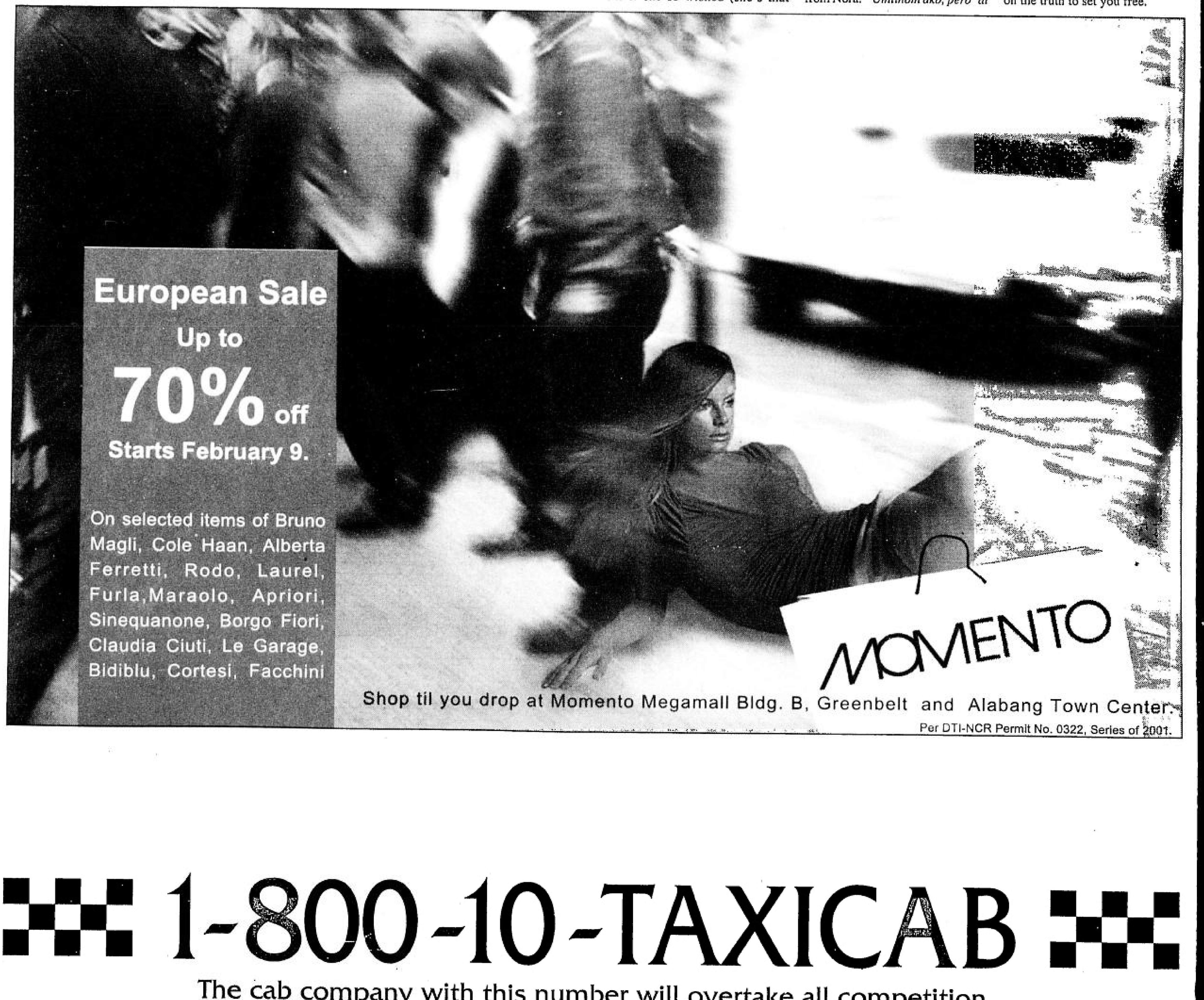
Word war

We can expect the word war to get hotter in the next few days, to be sure. Since both of them are my friends, I can only offer this advice: You know who's telling the truth and who isn't.

More importantly, you both know that if show biz is rotten, politics is garbage. You can expect more of this kind of nasty talk in the future should you continue with your "war." Are you ready for it?

I guess the best thing to do at this point is to reassess your lives and to take stock of which area needs improvement or correction. Look into your heart and sincerely ask if you can really be of service to the people once you are elected. Once you have answered these questions and find the answers to be good, then you have nothing to fear.

In the end, you can always count on the truth to set you free.



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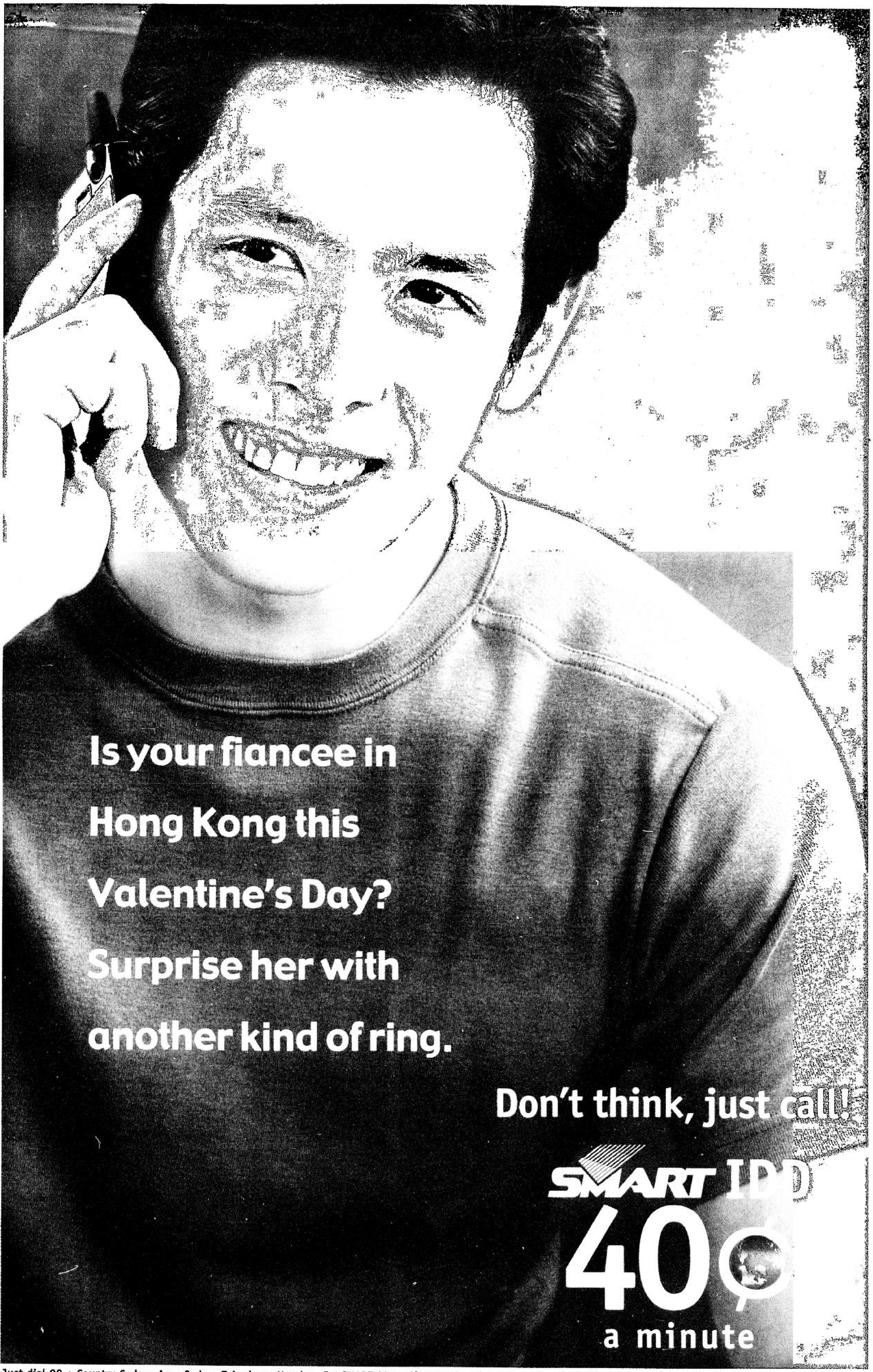
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Seeing spots once again with '102 Dalmatians'

WALT Disney Pictures once again "spot-lights" comedy, fantasy and fun-filled adventure in "102 Dalmatians," the highly anticipated sequel to the 1996 box-office blockbuster, "101 Dalmatians."

Good behavior

In this all-new tale, Cruella de Vil (Glenn Close) is released from prison on good behavior vowing that she will have nothing to do with fur ever again.

Three years after she dognapped her way around London, Cruella seems a changed woman. No longer fixated by fur or dazzled by Dalmatians, she has become the new savior of the animal kingdom and more specifically, a dog's best friend.

Everyone marvels at Cruella's incredible transformation, all except her dog-loving probation officer, Chloe Simon (Alice Evans), who doesn't believe it for a minute. Her skepticism is further fueled when Cruella steps in and buys a failing dog shelter.

However, the sudden disappearance of Chloe's own Dalmatian puppies suggests that all is not as it seems. Cruella's furtiveness implies a more sinister explanation, as does her newly formed friendship with French fashion furrier Jean Pierre Le Pelt. Together they team up to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting canine world.

CLOSE. Plays a changed Cruella de Vil.

The idea of a sequel to "101 Dalmatians" first emerged about two years ago, but for producer Edward Feldman, the key was again securing Glenn Close for the role she so artfully made her own, Cruella de Vil.

Intrigued

Close was intrigued by the idea of playing Cruella once again. "I was attracted by the idea of being able to revisit a character as iconic as Cruella and I knew the script was going to be good and that I'd be working with very many talented people, many of whom had worked on '101 Dalmatians,'" says Close.

"Tarzan" director Kevin Lima makes his live-action directorial debut with "102 Dalmatians."

Directing animation and directing live action do have their similarities," Lima says. "In animations, as in live action, the goal is to create living, breathing characters."

Aside from a cast of central human characters like Cruella, Jean Pierre, Cruella's manservant Alonso and Chloe, "102 Dalmatians" boasts of a pretty extensive animal cast.

In addition to the adult Dalmatians Dipstick (son of Pongo and Perdy) and Dottie and their puppies, Domino, Little Dipstick and spotless Oddball, the film also welcomes many canine faces, including a Border Terrier, a Bullmastiff and a Borzoi.

The film also features a breakout performance by Waddlesworth, the Macaw who thinks it's a dog!

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Heartaches behind the Osmonds' toothy grins

By Beth Harris

LOS ANGELES—It wasn't all sunshine and lollipops being a singing, dancing member of the Osmonds in the 1970s. Really.

Sure, the brothers had girls chasing them and guys wanting to be them. The worldwide travel, magazine covers and gold records were great, too.

Infighting

But behind the toothy grins and wholesome, milk-drinking image, there was infighting, heartache, rebellion and bad investments. Working amid the smoking, drinking and cussing of show business also clashed with the family's Mormon religious values.

It's all revealed—along with white jumpsuits, fringe and polyester—in the ABC movie "Inside the Osmonds."

The film "was almost therapy in a way for my family. It really shows what happened. Some of it was hard to swallow," said Jimmy Osmond, who served as one of six executive producers. "For many years, we would just not talk about anything that is negative, and now everybody is kind of having fun sharing the true Osmond story."

Script

It wasn't easy getting Alan, Wayne, Merrill, Jay, Donny, Marie, Jimmy, and Tom and Virl (the two oldest brothers, who are hearing-impaired), along with parents George and Olive, to agree on the script.

Not everyone remembered those crazy days the same way. And dredging up hurt feelings from three decades ago brought some tears.

"It was interesting to have a meeting of the minds and say, 'Did you really feel that way about me?'" Jimmy said in a telephone interview from Branson, Missouri, where he and some of the brothers perform more than 300 shows a year in their own theater.

"Merrill was kind of in denial about his feelings. He said, 'Hey, I never felt bad about being pushed back,' and when he saw the way it was, he just wept," Jimmy said. "It was very healing."

ACTORS (from left) Miklos Perlus, Patrick Levis, Joel Berti, Janaya Stephens, Ryan G. Kirkpatrick and Jason Knight portray singing members of the Osmond family. AP

The girls who screamed and cried over the Osmonds in the '70s might have been shocked to know what really happened:

- The Symbionese Liberation Army, a revolutionary group that kidnapped Patty Hearst in 1974, once threatened to bomb the Osmonds' concerts. "Everyone's a critic," replied one of the brothers.

Morals

- Donny and Jay engaged in a major makeout session with fan-club members. True to their morals, the brothers kept their pants on and kicked out the girls for getting too frisky.
- Merrill rebelled after being replaced by Donny as the group's lead singer.
- Donny fumed at being the butt of jokes on the goofy "Donny and Marie" variety show; Marie briefly starved herself after an ABC executive scolded her for gaining weight.
- Father George and brother Alan were plagued with guilt over misguided investments that left the family on the verge of bankruptcy.

"How many people could lose $80 million and still be talking to each other?" said Veronica Cartwright, who plays Olive. "That's a devastating loss and for the family to all stick together, that's amazing."

Cartwright and Bruce McGill, who plays George, started out as skeptics, but wound up respecting the clan, whose motto was "family, faith and work in that order."

"I was guilty like anyone of being prejudicial about the Osmonds," said McGill, whose musical tastes in the '70s ran to the Rolling Stones, the Beatles and Bob Dylan. "They were super-skilled pros, and that was a bit surprising."

Final scene

The movie's final scene features a rare reunion of the family that has sold 80 million records and had 48 gold and platinum albums. The actors start out singing "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," then give way to the real-life Osmonds, including gray-haired Merrill and Jay.

"There were a lot of hardened industry people there and they were crying," Jimmy recalled.

"I've been around and seen a lot," McGill said, "but it was as truly moving as anything I've been exposed to."

Just flying 11 Osmonds to the Canadian set required three chartered jets and massive rearranging of schedules.

"Alan was reluctant because of his multiple sclerosis. It's hard for him," Jimmy said. "My mom and dad don't love to travel and it was very cold in Winnipeg. The brothers and I were doing Christmas shows and Marie was doing doll shows.

"This is probably one of the last projects we'll do as a family," he said. "Everybody is doing their own thing."

AP

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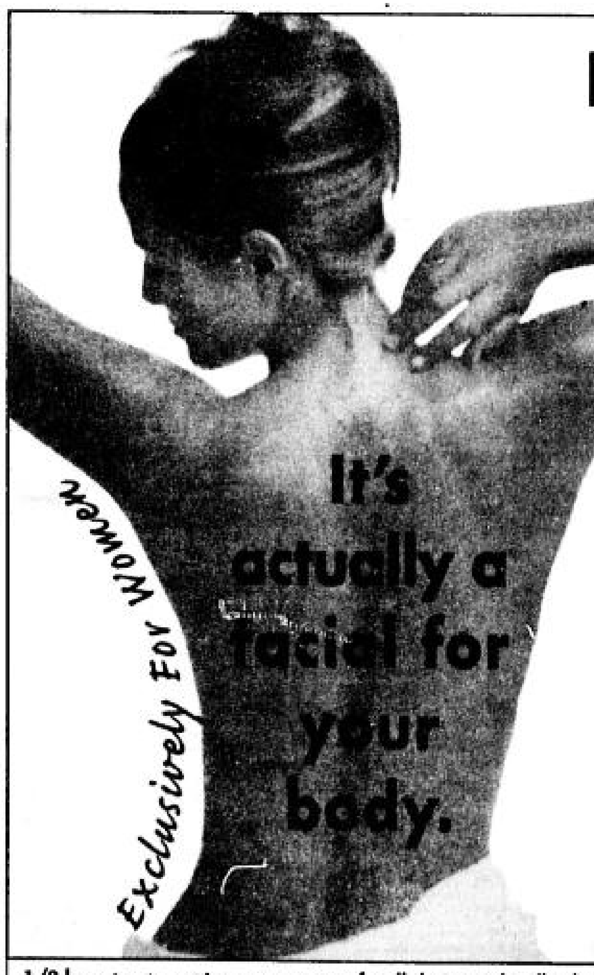

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Director Joyce Bernal's true passion is editing

BY VERON DIONISIO

"I'M not good." That's how editor-turned-box-office director Joyce Bernal describes herself, despite megging one of the industry's biggest moneymakers, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" at a time when the film industry was experiencing its near-death.

Lost cause

When everything seemed to be a lost cause, the film topbilled by Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez gave the industry another lease on life.

"Really. After watching 'Tanging Yaman,' I suddenly realized that I couldn't be a director in the real sense of the word," said the 31-year-old director, among the youngest in the industry.

This insecurity probably stems from the fact that Bernal did not really have formal training in film directing to learn the fundamental skills of the craft.

Bernal took up audio-visual production at the state university. She wasn't able to finish the course because she found herself immersed in editing films at Magnatech after completing the 100-hour practicum requirement to earn the degree.

After almost 1,000 hours of training, she found herself spending more time in the editing studios than in the classroom. In the confines of those studios, Bernal discovered her passion for editing.

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She didn't graduate in college and instead worked as assistant editor, associate editor, production assistant, stillwoman, etc. on various film assignments. Bernal did go back to UP after a year or so to finish her course. "I completed the thesis but I wasn't able to take the penalty subjects required because of my unauthorized leave of absence. Hopefully I'll be able to take them one of these days," says Bernal.

Soon after, she got more editing jobs until she landed her first editorial credit for the film "Sabado Nights" under Viva Films. From then on, she worked with first-time directors until Viva big boss, Vic del Rosario offered her her film directorial debut. "*Sabi niya*, if ever I would decide on directing, he wanted it to be for Viva. So I said yes," narrates Bernal.

Del Rosario must have noticed Bernal's work while she was editing trailers for Viva. "And, *siguro, nagkasundo lang talaga 'yung* styles *namin*," beams Bernal.

Three years ago, she directed her first film, "I'm Sorry, My Love," starring Judy Ann Santos and Onemig Bondoc, which did well at the tills because, according to Bernal, the budget was small, so naturally the return on investment was much higher.

Well-received tandem

The film was followed by a string of box-office successes like "Hey, Babe," with Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin; the memorable and well-received tandem of Aga Muhlach and Regine Velasquez in "Dahil May Isang Ikaw"; a Robin Padilla and Jolina Magdangal starrer; and of course, the box-office record-breaking "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw." Bernal's latest film, "Booba," is currently showing.

She describes her latest film as a film about nothing, no theme, no moral lesson. "*Wala lang*. But this is the film that I could really call my own. The rest were just given to me. I told myself just because 'Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw' did well, I should pressure myself to surpass that. *Hindi naman siguro*," says Bernal.

"So 'Booba' came about. 'Booba' was me when I was just starting in the business. *Ganoon ako kababaw*. But the film had to be more sexy because that's one of the compromises we agreed on with the producers."

Despite her being one of the more sought-after film directors at the moment, editing remains Bernal's true passion. Why?

More fulfilled

"*Sa* editing *kasi*, I feel more fulfilled, *iba ang pakiramdam ko kapag hawak ko 'yung pelikula*. Imagine the film as the product of a collective hard work of a number of people. And yet, it's in *your* hands, you can do anything you want which could make or unmake the film.

"For me, that's power. That's importance. You feel how the production regards you," explains Bernal. "Plus you only have to work with directors and producers with whom you share the same level of enthusiasm and passion."

BERNAL (third from left) directs Ai-Ai delas Alas in "Booba."

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In contrast, she says, directing entails dealing with various people in the production, many of whom may only be there for the big bucks.

"Most of them see it as a job and seldom really care for the craft. I'm not saying that one has to be artistic *kung wala naman talaga. Pero, sana lang, may konting malasakit*. That they could go an extra mile and work beyond what they're paid to do. And I do believe we're worth more than that," points out the young director.

Bernal also feels increasingly frustrated at being typecast in the types of films she's making. "*Sa* industry *kasi*, when a certain type of film does well at the box office, producers offer the same types of films to the public, over and over.

"*Sa* director, *ganoon din. Mababago lang siguro 'yun kapag bumagsak na*. Then they would say, *ah, hindi na pwede, dapat iba na*," she says.

Romantic comedies

Not that she resents the fact that her films have mostly been romantic comedies. She's very happy that a large number of viewers enjoy her films. She's appreciative of the level of importance producers, directors and stars are giving her now that she has proven herself as a director of films the audience loves to watch.

"But how I wish I could also make films that are different from what I've been doing now. I want people to realize that I can do other types of films as well. *Na hindi nila ako kailangang ikahon*.

"I would also want to have the opportunity to make more noteworthy films. *Hindi ko sinasabing walang kwenta ang mga pelikula ko o magaling ako. Gusto ko lang makagawa ng iba naman. Dahil mauubusan ka rin naman, di ba? Hindi naman ako pwedeng magpa*-cute *lang buong buhay ko*!" Bernal argues.

Bernal hopes to tackle social issues or more serious themes than mere love in her upcoming films. However, she has certain shortcomings.

"Ever since, I've always wanted to make a statement. I want my characters to portray human struggles, to be more multidimensional. Somehow, you also want your films to have significant themes. But, almost always, at the end of my films, I couldn't find any. *Hindi ko nailabas. Na*-enjoy *ko lang*," explains Bernal, evidently frustrated.

She also says she lacks sensibility, which she considers an important aspect in a film director's handling of film themes and subjects.

"And probably, I also lack experience. I still need to learn how to project a theme without being preachy. *Ayoko kasi ng* preachy. I believe a film has the potential to make strong statements without preaching. And as of now, I still lack the skills to do that," says Bernal.

Again, she cites "Tanging Yaman" as an example of a film that is theme-driven, developed through the interweaving of events and characters' struggles, not resorting to telling the story through dialogue, but more through the images and symbols depicted on the screen.

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"The theme is there, you can see it, and yet it is not forced. It flows smoothly as the story progresses," stresses Bernal.

"I would also have wanted my films to say something that may not be as profound or deep, but would be more significant just the same."

Bernal believes that the way a film director views life determines, to a large extent, the kind of director he or she really is. "And probably because my views on those issues are not really that intense and passionate, at least not just yet, *hindi ko mailabas 'yun sa mga pelikula ko*.

"Personally, I tend to detach myself from the things that would make me more vulnerable to hurt and frustrations. *Kaya siguro, kahit na seryoso na 'yung mga bagay*, I can still find what's funny in serious stuff. *At 'yun ang lumalabas sa mga pelikula ko*."

She maintains that maturity may have a lot to do with it. As such, she says: "When we look at 'Tanging Yaman,' we see *direk* Laurice (Guillen) there. *Siya 'yun, e*. But at the same time, because she's an experienced director and she has gone through the same difficulties in life as the characters in the film experience, you can see every character in the film distinctively.

Non-judgmental

"And her point of view in the film is evidently non-judgmental. *Masama man o mabuti 'yung mga tao*, she doesn't look down on them, she treats them equally."

For her part, Bernal believes that she belongs to a generation to whom seeking comfort is the order of the day. "Our generation is different now. We have become more materialistic—career, single life, even love has become more of a comfort. *Napakanipis na klase ng pagmamahal*," she says.

Being a reluctant director, she doesn't consider lasting long in this business. She sees herself doing this job for only five more years. She doesn't have a dream project in mind and harbors no illusions about how her works will be analyzed and accepted in the future. Because, by her own standards, she's not really good.

Key factors

Wherever she is right now, Bernal considers luck and the people she has worked with to have been the key factors in the success of her films.

"No, really. Imagine if 'Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw' was shown during the bombing. And imagine also if the stars and the people I've worked with didn't care for the movies I did?" asks Bernal. "*Siguro, kung ako lang mag-isa, ako na lang din ang manonood ng pelikula ko*."

She lives for the day and aspires to do things the best way she can. "My greatest fear *kasi* is, what if I don't want to direct movies anymore, *ano'ng gagawin ko*? I don't want to think about it. That's why, *kung ano lang 'yung dumating, 'yun lang ang pinagtutuunan ko ng pansin*," grins Bernal. She has one dream, though: to win an award for editing.

After those five years, she says quite emphatically, "I want to fall in love. But I want it to happen now!" That probably sums up Bernal's directing style. And also the reason why many people love her movies: they really want you to fall in love. To never give up on love despite its consequences.

Director Taylor Hackford sees the proof

HE came into prominence by directing Oscar-nominated romantic-dramas like "An Officer and a Gentleman," "White Nights" and "Against All Odds."

Hostage negotiator

Following his supernatural hit "The Devil's Advocate," director Taylor Hackford now directs what could be the most controversial film of his career: Warner Bros.' kidnap-and-ransom thriller "Proof of Life," the story of a hostage negotiator who falls in love with the wife of the kidnap victim he's trying to rescue.

As life has a way of imitating art, stars Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe made public their romantic relationship while making the film, triggering media frenzy. Find out Taylor Hackford's take on the much-talked-about affair in this interview:

Was there a moment when you realized that something was happening off screen between Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe?

The moment I knew something was happening was when I read it in the tabloids in London. I'm not stupid. I'm working. I introduced them. They didn't know each other when the film began. But inherent in this script is the building of a relationship, a certain sexual tension that continues through it. I'm getting that through the lens.

But they were incredibly discreet and professional. I had no idea. And they weren't lovey-doveying themselves around the set, so it wasn't obvious. When it happened, it still didn't affect me. We finished the film, they continued in a professional way.

In character

I demand that actors come in character. I demand that they try to be as prepared as possible. I try to keep some freshness going on so there can be some discovery, but also that they commit to me totally, and you can see in this film that they did. I can't help what happens in real life.

Do you think the romantic undertones were a necessary Hollywood convention for a kidnap-and-ransom story like this, or was there an aesthetic reason you chose to include them?

I'm always interested in putting characters in ambiguous situations. I could have done this film as a straight hostage drama. I think, with this situation and with Russell Crowe's character, there's going to be sexual tension.

At the beginning, there's animosity. Alice (Meg Ryan) doesn't like military people. She's got a social services background. However, over the course of time, the mutual need that is built up leads inevitably to the unthinkable.

I could have wham-bammed them in bed together really quickly, but it's an adult situation. I think the ambiguity of it and the situation is one of those focuses of a complicated story that I was trying to tell.

It looked like there was a love scene in the trailer, but this didn't make it to the final cut. Did you deliberately exclude the love scene to detract from the real-life romance of Meg and Russell?

I try many different things in the process, and I end up making the film that I think works best. I've always done this. "An Officer and a Gentleman" was 3 hours and 20 minutes in its first cut. And actors get pissed off at me because I've cut scenes where they give everything.

Would this have been a different film at three hours? Maybe. Would it have been as good a film? I'm not sure. I made a choice to tell two stories. The two intercut and impact each other. So audiences are caught up in that. If it was just a story about Meg and Russell, it would be something else again.

Do you think that, with focus groups and the early testing of movies, the audience has too much power initially?

I don't think so. It all comes down to the filmmaker. I have final cut on my movie. I think it's how to use that process. I've always used it to clarify things. As a filmmaker, you get so close to the work. You cut a film together and you say, "It's obvious!"

And then the audience watches the film and they don't get it at all: I mean, a 100 percent blank on what you thought was clear. By the time you get to the point that it's screening, you've lost your perspective. That's why I show it to an audience; to regain perspective, not change the nature of the film.

Why did you want to make this movie? What was important to you?

HACKFORD (left) with his stars Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe.

I make films for the big screen. I don't make them for the small box. You walk in there, the lights go down and bang, on the screen comes something that you feel you've never seen before.

Reason

Hollywood has never gone into the Andes before. They probably didn't go for a reason. They probably didn't have someone who spoke fluent Spanish and had lived there before, knew what they were doing, and had a story.

But the fact is, I went there with a purpose. Even down in the jungle, that jungle is a cloud forest. It's different from a deep jungle in Mexico. All that stuff is unique to the area that I knew, because I was in the Peace Corps there, and I wanted to recapture it.

Is it my desire to go into the heart of darkness? In a way, maybe.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Willie's naughty ways finally backfire on him

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ABS-CBN has finally removed Willie Revillame as one of the hosts of "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" despite Willie's wide following and the possible effect of his dismissal on the show's ratings. In the past, Willie has been criticized for his off-color remarks and in fact was suspended by the network along with John Estrada and Randy Santiago at one point.

Despite Willie's naughty ways, the network has always bent backwards to accommodate him. Why take out someone who's responsible for the show's wide viewership?

There is no official word from ABS-CBN why the controversial host was taken out of "MTB." One source tells us that what finally prodded the network to act were Willie's actuations against director Edgar Mortiz. We are told that in one show Willie made an obscene gesture which was almost caught by the camera, so Edgar called his attention after the show.

Willie reportedly ignored the advice and even tried to have Edgar removed from his position. The move backfired and instead of getting a new director, ABS-CBN removed one of the three hosts.

Three directors and a classic

We chanced upon an old, old episode of Helen Vela's "Lovingly Yours" on the Solar cable channel and considered ourselves lucky because the guest performers were three of the country's top directors—Maryo J. de los Reyes, Behn Cervantes and Mario O'Hara. Although we were only able to watch half of the TV drama, we were impressed at way the three directors handled their roles.

They played scheming bastard children of a dying rich man played by Ruben Rustia. They were bent on doing everything to prevent his daughter from inheriting his riches. Maryo had to break down in one scene after the father died and he convinced us that it was a real breakdown and not just acting.

Behn impressed us not just with his delivery of kilometric Tagalog lines (that's quite an achievement for someone who's more at home with the English language), but with his portrayal of the son who had a heart of steel. We didn't see too much of Mario's scenes, though.

The episode made us realize that, for directors to be good at their craft, it helps a lot if they are also good actors. How can you motivate your actors to do a good job if you can't act to save your life?

We were also reminded just how good "Lovingly Yours" was. We remember the inventive scripts of Gina Maria Tagasa and the unique casting choices made by the show. In the 1980s, we were part of a board of judges that chose the 10 best TV shows of the year, without regard for categories. "Lovingly Yours" easily made it to the list.

Star-studded weekend

Last Sunday, on GMA-7's "SOP," Lux Super Rich Shampoo launched a promo open to females, aged 16 to 35, all over the country. No, it's not another beauty contest but an opportunity to live like a celebrity for an entire weekend.

Starting March 11, a total of 30 lucky women will be chosen by lottery to experience a star-studded weekend. First off, all of them will stay at the Westin Philipine Plaza. Winners from the provinces will be flown in via Air Philippines. While in Manila, everyone gets star treatment from a spa and beauty regimen at Head Zone Salon to an all-night party at Hard Rock Cafe, Makati. There they will have a date with stars from "SOP." They will also get P 10,000 worth of new outfits and pocket money.

Each winner will get a sail-away package to the Pink Patio in Boracay via the Super Ferry.

If that sounds tempting to our female readers, write your name, age, address and signature on a piece of paper and enclose it in an envelope with either six whole empty sachets or one bottlecap of Lux Shampoo, and drop in boxes situated at selected supermarkets.

Mating mayhem ensues in '10 Things I Hate About You' on Star Movies

NEW Hollywood heartthrobs Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger star in "10 Things I Hate Abou You," exclusively premiering on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

Adaptation

In this refreshing adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic comedy "The Taming of the Shrew," Emmy-nominated director Gil Junger makes his feature film directing debut with his tale of dating dilemmas.

Meet the Stratford sisters: pretty and popular Bianca (Larisa Oleynik), who has never had a date, and Kat (Julia Stiles), her older sibling, an ill-tempered harridan whose acerbic wit is matched only by her steadfast determination to alienate any guy who might be remotely interested in her.

Unfortunately, strict rules in the Stratford household forbid Bianca from having a boyfriend until her odious sister has one of her own. Bianca's desperation for romance turns into a convoluted scheme to match Kat with her male equivalent—a guy whose reputation is so infamous, Kat might rise to the challenge and find him worthy of her concealed charms.

Mysterious past

Mating mayhem ensues when Patrick Verona (Heath Ledger), a sullen young man with a mysterious past, is bribed by Bianca's wannabe boyfriend (Andrew Keegan) to woo and win Kat, in order to clear the way for Bianca to begin dating.

The film features a bright, beauteous young cast including Aussie import Ledger, impressive teen actresses Julia Stiles ("Down To You") and Larisa Oleynik ("3rd Rock From The Sun"), one of Hollywood's hottest young actors Andrew Keegan ("Independence Day"), and Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("A River Runs Through It").

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"No, really. Imagine if 'Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw' was shown during the bombing. And imagine also if the stars and the people I've worked with didn't care for the movies I did?" asks Bernal. "*Siguro, kung ako lang mag-isa, ako na lang din ang manonood ng pelikula ko*."

She lives for the day and aspires to do things the best way she can. "My greatest fear *kasi* is, what if I don't want to direct movies anymore, *ano'ng gagawin ko*? I don't want to think about it. That's why, *kung ano lang 'yung dumating, 'yun lang ang pinagtutuunan ko ng pansin*," grins Bernal. She has one dream, though: to win an award for editing.

After those five years, she says quite emphatically, "I want to fall in love. But I want it to happen now!" That probably sums up Bernal's directing style. And also the reason why many people love her movies: they really want you to fall in love. To never give up on love despite its consequences.

Director Taylor Hackford sees the proof

HE came into prominence by directing Oscar-nominated romantic-dramas like "An Officer and a Gentleman," "White Nights" and "Against All Odds."

Hostage negotiator

Following his supernatural hit "The Devil's Advocate," director Taylor Hackford now directs what could be the most controversial film of his career: Warner Bros.' kidnap-and-ransom thriller "Proof of Life," the story of a hostage negotiator who falls in love with the wife of the kidnap victim he's trying to rescue.

As life has a way of imitating art, stars Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe made public their romantic relationship while making the film, triggering media frenzy. Find out Taylor Hackford's take on the much-talked-about affair in this interview:

Was there a moment when you realized that something was happening off screen between Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe?

The moment I knew something was happening was when I read it in the tabloids in London. I'm not stupid. I'm working. I introduced them. They didn't know each other when the film began. But inherent in this script is the building of a relationship, a certain sexual tension that continues through it. I'm getting that through the lens.

But they were incredibly discreet and professional. I had no idea. And they weren't lovey-doveying themselves around the set, so it wasn't obvious. When it happened, it still didn't affect me. We finished the film, they continued in a professional way.

In character

I demand that actors come in character. I demand that they try to be as prepared as possible. I try to keep some freshness going on so there can be some discovery, but also that they commit to me totally, and you can see in this film that they did. I can't help what happens in real life.

Do you think the romantic undertones were a necessary Hollywood convention for a kidnap-and-ransom story like this, or was there an aesthetic reason you chose to include them?

I'm always interested in putting characters in ambiguous situations. I could have done this film as a straight hostage drama. I think, with this situation and with Russell Crowe's character, there's going to be sexual tension.

At the beginning, there's animosity. Alice (Meg Ryan) doesn't like military people. She's got a social services background. However, over the course of time, the mutual need that is built up leads inevitably to the unthinkable.

I could have wham-bammed them in bed together really quickly, but it's an adult situation. I think the ambiguity of it and the situation is one of those focuses of a complicated story that I was trying to tell.

It looked like there was a love scene in the trailer, but this didn't make it to the final cut. Did you deliberately exclude the love scene to detract from the real-life romance of Meg and Russell?

I try many different things in the process, and I end up making the film that I think works best. I've always done this. "An Officer and a Gentleman" was 3 hours and 20 minutes in its first cut. And actors get pissed off at me because I've cut scenes where they give everything.

Would this have been a different film at three hours? Maybe. Would it have been as good a film? I'm not sure. I made a choice to tell two stories. The two intercut and impact each other. So audiences are caught up in that. If it was just a story about Meg and Russell, it would be something else again

Do you think that, with focus groups and the early testing of movies, the audience has too much power initially?

I don't think so. It all comes down to the filmmaker. I have final cut on my movie. I think it's how to use that process. I've always used it to clarify things. As a filmmaker, you get so close to the work. You cut a film together and you say, "It's obvious!"

And then the audience watches the film and they don't get it at all: I mean, a 100 percent blank on what you thought was clear. By the time you get to the point that it's screening, you've lost your perspective. That's why I show it to an audience; to regain perspective, not change the nature of the film.

Why did you want to make this movie? What was important to you?

HACKFORD (left) with his stars Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe.

I make films for the big screen. I don't make them for the small box. You walk in there, the lights go down and bang, on the screen comes something that you feel you've never seen before.

Reason

Hollywood has never gone into the Andes before. They probably didn't go for a reason. They probably didn't have someone who spoke fluent Spanish and had lived there before, knew what they were doing, and had a story.

But the fact is, I went there with a purpose. Even down in the jungle, that jungle is a cloud forest. It's different from a deep jungle in Mexico. All that stuff is unique to the area that I knew, because I was in the Peace Corps there, and I wanted to recapture it.

Is it my desire to go into the heart of darkness? In a way, maybe.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Willie's naughty ways finally backfire on him

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ABS-CBN has finally removed Willie Revillame as one of the hosts of "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" despite Willie's wide following and the possible effect of his dismissal on the show's ratings. In the past, Willie has been criticized for his off-color remarks and in fact was suspended by the network along with John Estrada and Randy Santiago at one point.

Despite Willie's naughty ways, the network has always bent backwards to accommodate him. Why take out someone who's responsible for the show's wide viewership?.

There is no official word from ABS-CBN why the controversial host was taken out of "MTB." One source tells us that what finally prodded the network to act were Willie's actuations against director Edgar Mortiz. We are told that in one show Willie made an obscene gesture which was almost caught by the camera, so Edgar called his attention after the show.

Willie reportedly ignored the advice and even tried to have Edgar removed from his position. The move backfired and instead of getting a new director, ABS-CBN removed one of the three hosts

Three directors and a classic

We chanced upon an old, old episode of Helen Vela's "Lovingly Yours" on the Solar cable channel and considered ourselves lucky because the guest performers were three of the country's top directors—Maryo J. de los Reyes, Behn Cervantes and Mario O'Hara. Although we were only able to watch half of the TV drama, we were impressed at way the three directors handled their roles.

They played scheming bastard children of a dying rich man played by Ruben Rustia. They were bent on doing everything to prevent his daughter from inheriting his riches. Maryo had to break down in one scene after the father died and he convinced us that it was a real breakdown and not just acting.

Behn impressed us not just with his delivery of kilometric Tagalog lines (that's quite an achievement for someone who's more at home with the English language), but with his portrayal of the son who had a heart of steel. We didn't see too much of Mario's scenes, though.

The episode made us realize that, for directors to be good at their craft, it helps a lot if they are also good actors. How can you motivate your actors to do a good job if you can't act to save your life?

We were also reminded just how good "Lovingly Yours" was. We remember the inventive scripts of Gina Maria Tagasa and the unique casting choices made by the show. In the 1980s, we were part of a board of judges that chose the 10 best TV shows of the year, without regard for categories. "Lovingly Yours" easily made it to the list.

Star-studded weekend

Last Sunday, on GMA-7's "SOP," Lux Super Rich Shampoo launched a promo open to females, aged 16 to 35, all over the country. No, it's not another beauty contest but an opportunity to live like a celebrity for an entire weekend.

Starting March 11, a total of 30 lucky women will be chosen by lottery to experience a star-studded weekend. First off, all of them will stay at the Westin Philipine Plaza. Winners from the provinces will be flown in via Air Philippines. While in Manila, everyone gets star treatment from a spa and beauty regimen at Head Zone Salon to an all-night party at Hard Rock Cafe, Makati. There they will have a date with stars from "SOP." They will also get P 10,000 worth of new outfits and pocket money.

Each winner will get a sail-away package to the Pink Patio in Boracay via the Super Ferry.

If that sounds tempting to our female readers, write your name, age, address and signature on a piece of paper and enclose it in an envelope with either six whole empty sachets or one bottlecap of Lux Shampoo, and drop in boxes situated at selected supermarkets.

Mating mayhem ensues in '10 Things I Hate About You' on Star Movies

NEW Hollywood heartthrobs Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger star in "10 Things I Hate Abou You," exclusively premiering on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

Adaptation

In this refreshing adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic comedy "The Taming of the Shrew," Emmy-nominated director Gil Junger makes his feature film directing debut with his tale of dating dilemmas.

Meet the Stratford sisters: pretty and popular Bianca (Larisa Oleynik), who has never had a date, and Kat (Julia Stiles), her older sibling, an ill-tempered harridan whose acerbic wit is matched only by her steadfast determination to alienate any guy who might be remotely interested in her.

Unfortunately, strict rules in the Stratford household forbid Bianca from having a boyfriend until her odious sister has one of her own. Bianca's desperation for romance turns into a convoluted scheme to match Kat with her male equivalent—a guy whose reputation is so infamous, Kat might rise to the challenge and find him worthy of her concealed charms.

Mysterious past

Mating mayhem ensues when Patrick Verona (Heath Ledger), a sullen young man with a mysterious past, is bribed by Bianca's wannabe boyfriend (Andrew Keegan) to woo and win Kat, in order to clear the way for Bianca to begin dating.

The film features a bright, beauteous young cast including Aussie import Ledger, impressive teen actresses Julia Stiles ("Down To You") and Larisa Oleynik ("3rd Rock From The Sun"), one of Hollywood's hottest young actors Andrew Keegan ("Independence Day"), and Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("A River Runs Through It").

Spotlight on Britney Spears and A1

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

HI, I just love Britney Spears. Please print the lyrics of Britney's song, "Lucky." Did she write that song? I'm nine years old and I want to show my older sister that Britney's sweeter than Christina Aguillera. Please do me that favor. Thanks.—*Cindy R of Banawe, Quezon City*

* * *

I love boy bands and I adore Ben Adams of A1. Please tell me more about the band and their first album, "Here We Come." My best friend said their new video, "Same Old Brand New You" was shot in the rain. Is that true?—*Ria of Prague St., BF Homes, Paranaque*

Sweet and sentimental

Britney Spears didn't write the lyrics to the song "Lucky" but she is indeed sweet and sentimental. In a magazine interview, she said that she liked that song because it described how lonely stardom could be: "It's so hard in this business because I get so lonely. You wouldn't think that, but after a show, I get on the bus and just sit there. I don't have any friends with me."

Lucky

This is a story of a girl named Lucky…
Early morning, she wakes up.
Knock, knock, knock on the door.
It's time for makeup, perfect smile
It's you they're all waiting for
They go…
Isn't she lovely, this Hollywood girl?
And they say

Chorus:
She's so lucky, she's a star
But she cry, cry, cries in her lonely heart, thinking
If there's nothing missing in my life
Then why do these tears come at night?

Lost in an image, in a dream
But there's no one there to wake her up
And the world is spinning
And she keeps on winning
But tell me what happens when it stops?
They go…
Isn't she lovely this Hollywood girl?
And they say…
(Repeat chorus)

Best actress, and the winner is: Lucky!
I'm Roger Johnson for Pop News standing outside
The arena waiting for Lucky.
Oh my God, here she comes!
Isn't she lucky, this Hollywood girl?
She is so lucky, but why does she cry?
If there is nothing missing in her life
Why do tears come at night?

(Repeat chorus)

Phone interview

We did a phone interview with A1 and here's some of their notes on their album:

Your thoughts on touring around the world?

Mark Read: We've been away from Britain since February 2000 but we're ready to go back to Britain with a bang!

Ben Adams: We've learned a lot since we started out. The best way to learn about anything is through experience and we've certainly been getting a lot of that. We've been traveling around the world learning how to become better songwriters and performers. We hope we're improving!

How is your new album different from "Here We Come"?

Christian Ingebrigtsen: It's more mature. We also had a bigger budget so we recorded more songs and made sure that we had the best songs in the album.

Problem

Paul Marazzi: We had a problem with having a lot of songs. We've written so many songs that we love and we had a hard time deciding with songs to include.

You did a revival of A-ha's "Take On Me." It's a good song but it doesn't seem to fit your image. Why did you choose to revive it?

Ben: Someone suggested that we revive it, so we agreed. We thought we'd have a good laugh and see how we sounded doing it. We were so pleased that we decided to release it as a single.

Christian: I'm a big A-ha fan. It was the biggest band in Norway in the '80s. And it's a brilliant song.

Mark: It's such a risk to do a cover song like "Take On Me" because so many people have grown up listening to it, and dancing to it at clubs and parties, so we had to do justice to it and I think we haven't sold it short.

Dance mix

I think people are going to like it, especially the dance mix!

How was it like shooting your video, "Same Old Brand New You" with rain effects?

Ben: It took us half a day to shoot. I have to look at a girl I haven't met and pretend I really hate her for the video. The rain effect made it difficult for us to dance. We had hairspray dripping down our faces along with the rain as we sang and danced. It was disgusting because the hairspray went to my mouth. I think I must have swallowed half a can of hairspray!

SPEARS. Stardom can be lonelv.

THE A1 BAND. (From left), Paul Marazzi, Mark Read, Ben Adams and Christian Ingebrigtsen.

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Gwyneth and Ben as friends and lovers

"GWYNETH and I are not going out. We're not a couple. We're not an item." Words of truth from Ben Affleck. Well, he could've made a fool out of all of us when you see "Bounce," the new romantic drama where he's paired for the first time with erstwhile love Gwyneth Paltrow.

Most confusing twosome

Since they were fixed up by friends three years ago, Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow have been hands down Hollywood's most confusing twosome, defying observers to figure out if they're just pals or lovers.

Their history goes something like this. Fall 1997, they start dating; spring 1998, they begin shooting "Shakespeare in Love"; January 1999, they break up.

Here's where it starts getting strange. After the alleged split, mounting evidence suggests that perhaps things hadn't exactly cooled down. They seemed too friendly in Miramax's pre-Oscars bash.

In late September '99, photos of the two surfaced, warm and sweet to each other in Paris. And as if that wasn't enough, the two have made a movie together and a love story no less with lots of kissing and a love scene to boot.

Are they just pals or are they back in each other's arms?

One fall afternoon, Ben gets a surprise phone call from Gwyneth. "We weren't really talking that much. We had broken up and it was in that phase where it was difficult," says Affleck, who had just finished making "Reindeer Games" and was looking forward to some R & R.

Paltrow wasn't calling to patch things up. She read a script by writer-director Don Roos and thought the role of Buddy Amaral would fit Ben.

"I've always had this ongoing dialogue with Ben about doing stuff that required more of him," Paltrow says. "When I see something like 'Armageddon' and see him just not connecting, I get sort of like, 'Yeah, you're charming ... but it's not what you're capable of.'"

Advice

So, against the advice of her friends and family ("They were like, 'Don't do it, it's going to be a drama'"), Paltrow persuaded her ex-boyfriend to get back together, for make-believe at least.

In "Bounce," ad exec Buddy (Affleck) gives his plane ticket to a stranger who dies when the aircraft crashes. A year later, a guilt-ridden Buddy checks up on the man's widow Abby (Paltrow), and they fall in love, though he can't bring himself to tell her he was responsible for her husband's death.

But let's face it: Most people who'll line up for "Bounce" will be there not to see Buddy and Abby, but Ben and Gwyneth or Benneth. Wouldn't you?

PALTROW. Surprise phone call.

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Carmi, Sunshine and Mystica on love and marriage

By Jocelyn Valle

FOR many, tying the knot is the culmination of a couple's romance. It's a formal declaration of a man and a woman's love for and commitment to each other.

How do some of show biz's fascinating women view marriage? Let's find out from single gal Carmi Martin, newlywed Sunshine Cruz and twice-married Mystica.

Soap opera

Carmi Martin, who's in the cast of Channel 7's soon-to-be-aired soap opera, "Ngayon at Kailanman," has had several marriage proposals but she's turned them all down. "Late *na kasi*," she sighs, explaining that each one came when the relationship was ending. She feels that it was just the guy's ploy to keep her.

The sexy actress wants sincerity from the man who's truly the one for her. "And I can only find it out through discernment, wisdom and a lot of prayers," she points out.

Yes, despite her "liberated" image, Carmi firmly believes in the institution of marriage. She's ready for the role of the perfect wife and partner, but she remains wary about total retirement from show business.

Traditional concept

Carmi also thinks that exchanging marital vows is like losing one's virginity. "It can only happen once," she grins, adding that, though she remains faithful to the traditional concept of wedded bliss, she doesn't buy the meet-your-Prince-Charming-and-you'll-live-happily-ever-after story anymore.

Instead, she's trying Forrest Gump's attitude towards life. "Like with a box of chocolates, you'll never know what you're gonna get," she smiles.

Her V-Day plans? Carmi shares that she'll be doing something for her church's outreach program. "But after 8 p.m.," she shakes her head, "I don't know what I'll be doing. I'm not sure whom I should spend Valentine's Day with."

Sunshine Cruz is quite certain about her Valentine date. "*Kaya lang hindi pa namin napag-uusapan kung paano kami magse*-celebrate," she says. "Dinner *lang siguro. Kahit ano, basta kasama ko siya.*" The young actress-singer is, of course, referring to her husband of five months, action star-drama actor Cesar Montano. They fondly call each other Baby.

MARTIN. Has turned down several marriage proposals.

Like when she was still single, Sunshine continues to view marriage through rose-tinted glasses. "*Masarap ang may asawa!*" she enthuses. "*'Wag lang magtatampuhan.*" Relax, she means the petty stuff married couples usually argue about.

Limelight

And true to her word, Sunshine has shunned the limelight since her Sept. 14 wedding last year, appearing only on "ASAP" and "SOP" once (Viva Films' "Alas Dose" is her last movie).

Cesar is encouraging his young wife to say yes to one of the offers she's been getting from recording companies, but Sunshine prefers to be a full-time homemaker. She strongly believes in the traditional marital set-up.

"*Hinahanap rin minsan ng katawan ko 'yung trabaho,*" she admits. "*Pero inisip ko na 'yan bago pa ako mag-asawa.* Anyway, *hindi naman ako ma*-gimmick *talaga* so I enjoy staying at home. *Marami akong pinagka-kaabalahan sa bahay.*"

Sunshine makes it a point that the bedroom that she's sharing with her husband is clutter-free. She's learning to cook and sees to it that Cesar sticks to his healthy diet. He eats mostly steamed dishes and avoids salty food, Sunshine reports, and adds, "*Ako ang nag-aasikaso ng* breakfast, lunch *at* dinner *n'ya.*"

Although her family is Catholic and she studied in schools run by nuns, Sunshine didn't hesitate becoming a born-again Christian like her husband.

Religiosity

"*Malapit kasi si* Buboy *sa Diyos,*" she notes of her husband's religiosity. "*Siya ang nagre*-remind *sa akin na mag*-pray first thing in the morning *at saka bago kumain.* Sunday is our family day. *Simba at kain sa labas lang ang ginagawa namin.*"

"He's also very responsible," she continues. "*Maganda ang pagpapalaki niya sa mga anak niya.* Very sweet *din siya, pero* moody. *Pareho kami, kaya hindi ko na lang sinasalubong ang galit niya.*"

Singer Mystica claims she is loveless now. "I'll be working this Valentine's Day," she informs us. "I have an out-of-town show. Yeah, *nakakalungkot at saka nakakapagod.*"

She wishes she could finally tie the knot with somebody she truly loves. "This time, *gusto ko* church wedding *na*," shares the voice behind naughty tunes like "Simple Ka Lang," "Pusong Salawahan" and "Bakit Hindi Ka Naging Tapat."(Her second album under Rock Records is titled "Walang Takip" and the carrier single, "Labi sa Labi.")

Compromise

During her first two marital unions, Mystica says she let her mind rule her heart, believing that marriage is a compromise. She gave love and affection, and played the role of a perfect wife. Still, the relationships didn't work out.

Her first husband didn't treat her well. "*Ginawa niya akong katulong,*" she sadly recalls. In contrast, her second hubby was a good man, but theirs was a long-distance relationship, explains Mystica, and they grew apart.

"I've learned to love myself," she muses on what her failed relationships have taught her. "It's only in loving yourself that you can love somebody else."

As for those people who've loved and lost, Mystica tells them not to give up. "Life goes on," she avers. "*Marami pang matatagpuan na mamahalin.* Don't stop loving. I've never stopped, and never will!"

Pro-development soap operas finally make their mark

By Veron Dionisio

IT'S heartening to note that a summit on the potential of television soap operas as a tool for effecting social change and advancing development efforts was held last Feb. 2 and 3 through the joint initiative of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the Philippine Committee of Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment, and the House Committee on Education at the House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

Popularity

This idea has long been utilized by Latin America in its pro-development soap operas since the early 1970s, relying heavily on the popularity of the genre in influencing viewers to develop relevant social and technical skills to bring about socio-economic change. Soap operas are widely-accepted by a large segment of society, catering mostly to women.

The term soap opera was coined in the United States in the early 1920s when radio drama serials became very popular, numbering about 40. These daytime radio programs were sponsored by soap companies whose main target listeners were housewives.

A huge body of research has been done on the significance of soap operas in the lives of women, the uses and gratification they derive from watching or listening to them, the implication of their content in forming social constructs, their role in creating social awareness and consciousness, etc.

Studies

Most of these studies tend to picture soap operas in a negative light, highlighting how they tend to develop complacency, passivity, immobility and immaturity among their loyal listeners and viewers.

But the fact remains that despite these negative effects, soap operas never cease to amaze their viewers. They maintain a large following and most viewers follow them religiously. Therefore, if soap operas capture people's imagination and interest, their power must be overwhelming and must hold great potential in providing meaningful vicarious experiences necessary to inculcate useful values and social consciousness.

This became the reason behind the idea of pro-development soap operas. The concept originated in 1974 on Televisa, a Mexican commercial television network which has produced quite a number of soap operas aimed at promoting knowledge that would change the values and views of the viewing public regarding adult literacy, family planning, sex education, and women's welfare.

Social change

The idea of utilizing television soap operas as tools for development and social change was initially thought of through a Peruvian soap opera titled, "Simplemente Maria" (Simple Mary), a story of a provincial lass who achieved upward social mobility through the acquisition of sewing skills using a Singer sewing machine.

The serial depicted socio-economic problems resulting from massive urban migration, women's ability to improve their plight, intermarriages between the urban-rich and the migrant-poor and their consequent conflicts, and women liberation.

Owner

After a year, Maria became the owner of a fashion boutique catering to the elite in the urban community, proving that, with perseverance and dedication and commitment to work, women can advance their cause in a highly patriarchal society.

According to a book written by Arvind Singhal and Everett Rogers on India's information revolution, the sale of Singer sewing machine tremendously increased and boomed in Peru and in other parts of Latin America where the program was being exported. The same source revealed that by 1977 the producers of "Simplemente Maria" earned net profits of $20 million. This proved the popularity of soap operas and their ability to attract massive audience and thus they can also be effective for social learning.

Encouraged by the success of this soap opera, Televisa produced its first pro-development soap opera "Ven Conmigo (Come With Me)," aimed at promoting adult literacy. It was well-received by viewers, judging from its 33-percent viewership ratings. But the more significant contribution of the soap was the increase in the enrollment of about one million illiterates in adult education classes, presenting a dramatic increase of 63 percent from the previous year.

This historical background on the emergence of pro-development soap operas clearly shows the socio-economic potential of television soaps. By placing this genre program in a more constructive and pro-active perspective, soap operas can be highly educational and profitable, good reasons for producers to venture into these unknown territories.

Media culture

In the Philippines, television soap operas occupy a significant part of national consciousness. They form part of a media culture created by endless images depicted on the small screen on a daily basis, unceasingly and consistently. Watching soap operas has become a social ritual people religiously practice with abandon, regardless of personal social condition and situation. Undoubtedly, this genre program's role in building or dismantling social structures, customs and traditions is crucial.

The good news now is that concerned people are beginning to recognize this role. This early, we would like to offer some suggestions, lest too much optimism and high expectations for these pioneering efforts led by the KBP prematurely kill the enthusiasm and interest of the people.

First, soap operas need not be pro-developmental right away, or they need not try too hard to become agents for social change.

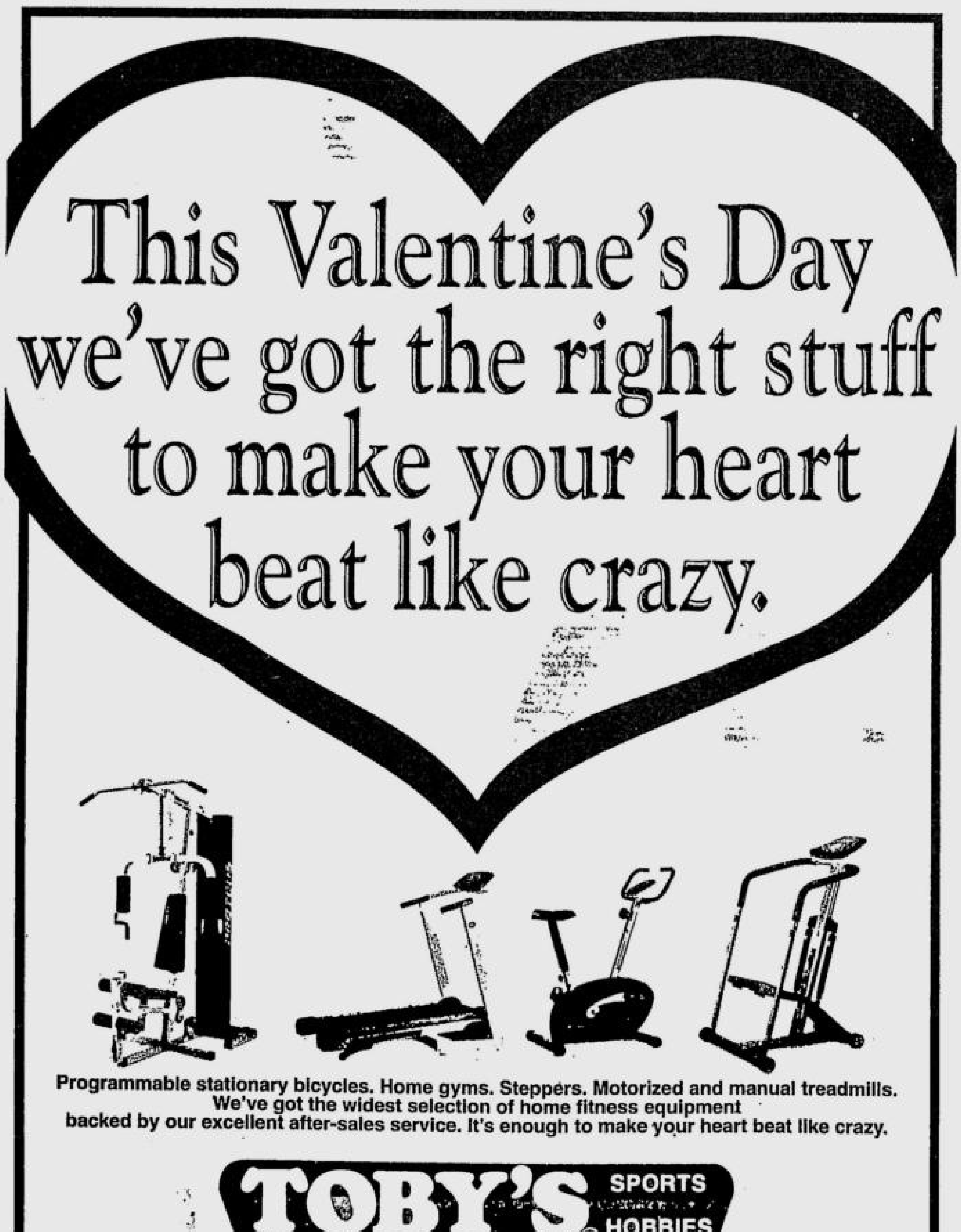
Second, the efforts to utilize them for social change should not necessary entail the production of conceptual pro-developmental soap operas in the tradition of those Latin American productions. Consciousness-raising and knowledge acquisition could be incidental.

Eclectic

Approaches may be eclectic blending commercialism, artistry and social-changing efforts. The important thing is the conscious effort to influence viewers more positively in more relevant ways, and aspiring to inculcate meaningful social values that would eventually emancipate people from their present socio-economic and intellectual conditions.

Lastly, along with these efforts, a serious media literacy program must also be launched to supplement the objectives of the convention. An effective media literacy program can develop a more informed viewing public who would be capable of understanding media messages and images as they relate to their everyday life.

The summit was very timely, considering the ever-changing and fragile socio-economic landscape in the country today. However, tremendous challenges lie ahead. Hopefully, they won't be too daunting and discouraging.



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Contestants face no real dangers in 'Survivor 2'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FIRST "Survivor" series made show biz history with its huge ratings, racked up because viewers found its combination of adventure, "reality" TV and pop psychology a compelling combination.

Two teams

Naturally, the show's producers weren't about to let go of the goose that laid those golden ratings eggs, so the format is back, this time with two teams of good-looking survivors battling the dangers of the Australian outback.

We caught the second episode of the "Survivor 2" series (on AXN, 10 p.m., Fridays)—and wondered where all those "dangers" were! All the survivors had to "battle" were some insects, some of which ended up in their mouths and stomachs, as part of one of the "tests" that the two competing "tribes" had to take in order to show which groups was tougher.

Favorite activities

With no real dangers threatening them, the survivors had a lot of time for what appeared to be their favorite activities: complaining and criticizing.

The petulant complaints were about the soggy rice (whereupon a dissatisfied survivor came up with some tasty tortillas, *ole*!); the lack of variety in the menu; another survivor caught cheating by nibbling on the sly on some beef jerky; the heavy loads they had to carry as they moved from camp to camp, etc.

A big dramatic highlight involved a survivor who was a principled vegetarian. She refused to participate in the grub-eating contest, so her tribe felt that she had let them down, cha-cha-cha.

Banal

By this time, we were wondering why we were watching stuff as banal as this! The first "Survivor" series, which was set on a Pacific isle, was much more exotic and visually striking. The series' producers should have quit while they were ahead.

Also, there seems to be something strange about this new batch of survivors. They appear to have been chosen mainly for their good looks and charisma, and lack the diversity of types those makes for interesting viewing, texture and genuine conflict when push comes to shove.

Telegenic appeal

Since they are so homogenized in their telegenic appeal, quite a number of the survivors seem to be too self-fixated for them to really work as members of a team.

Thank goodness, the blah and blather finally ended, and the show peaked with the "elimination" portion that is one of its strongest suits. This is the part where the survivors vote a member of the group out of the show. The odd man out in the episode was a guy named Kal, the series' second *non*-survivor.

This portion fascinates viewers because it can have a dramatically cruel edge, and thus offers a sense of catharsis for the folks out there who wish that they too could simply "vote" the people they dislike out of existence!

Judgmental

It is this elimination process that keeps viewers tuned to the series from week to week, because they want to see who will literally survive, *not* the dangers of mother nature, but the judgmental and even vindictive aspects of *human* nature—which is sometimes more daunting than the worst that natural disasters have to offer!

So the "Survivor" shows aren't really about ostensible dangers in the wild, but about extremely competitive people's readiness to put one another down, in the guise of evaluating their teammates' ability to work together.

Behind their self-righteous explanations of how they voted, however, lurks their actual intent: to eliminate their strongest competitors, so that they will have an easier time of clinching the show's prize of one million dollars. Aha—gotcha!

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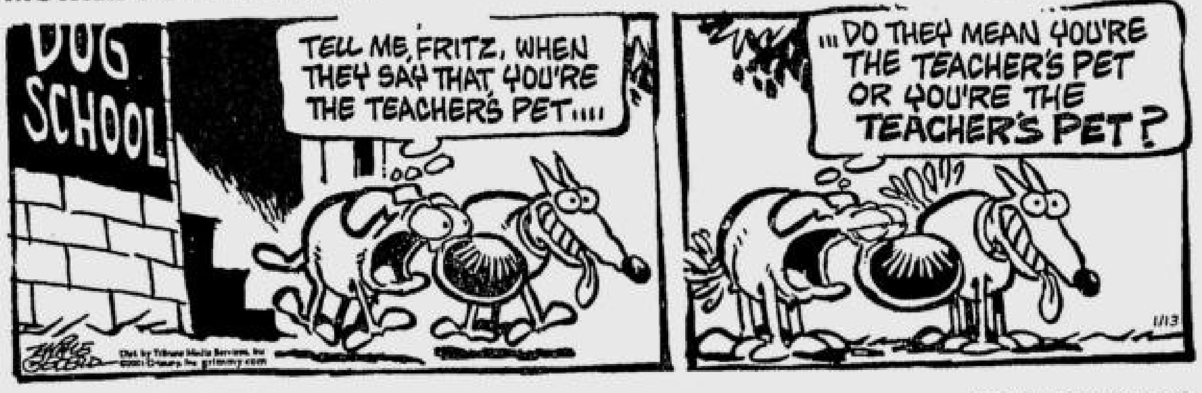
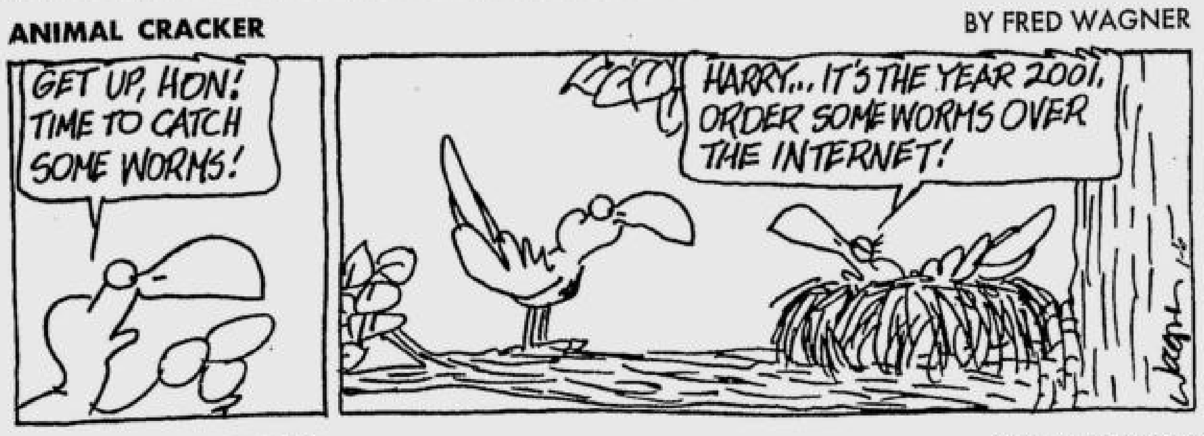
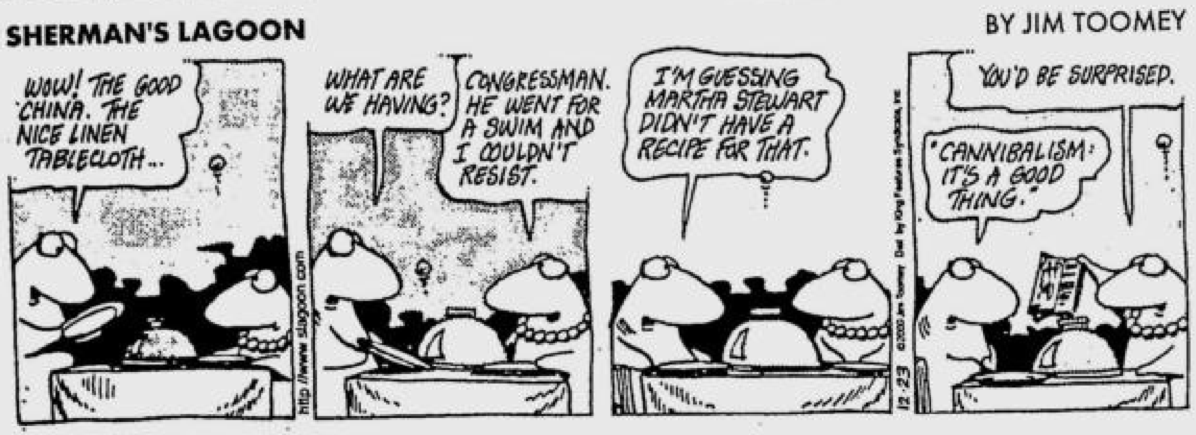
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


DOG SCHOOL
TELL ME, FRITZ, WHEN THEY SAY THAT YOU'RE THE TEACHER'S PET....
...DO THEY MEAN YOU'RE THE TEACHER'S PET OR YOU'RE THE TEACHER'S PET?
1/13

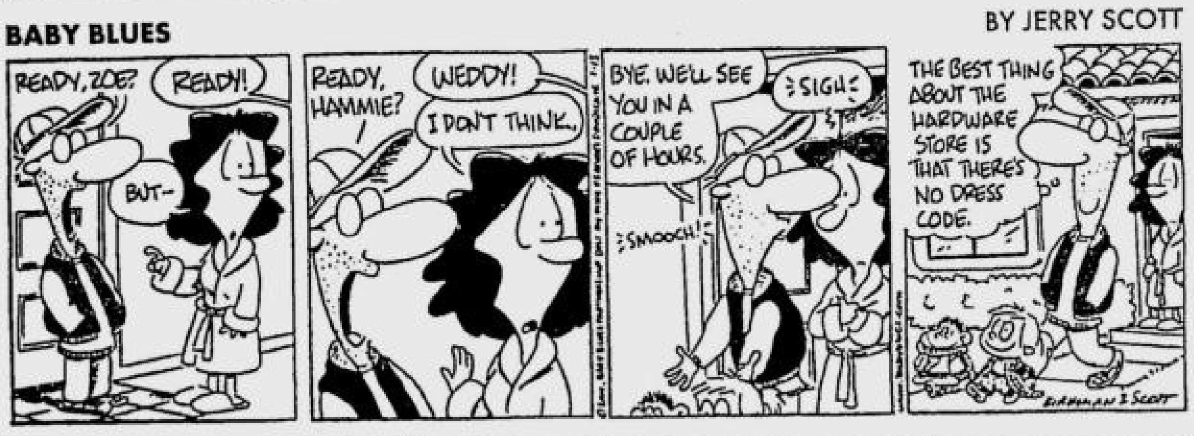
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


GET UP, HON! TIME TO CATCH SOME WORMS!
HARRY... IT'S THE YEAR 2001, ORDER SOME WORMS OVER THE INTERNET!

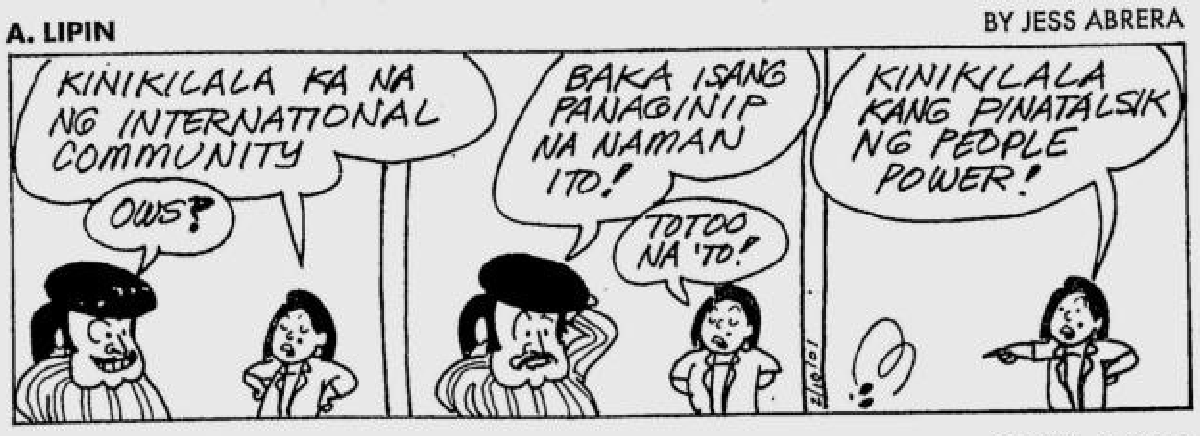
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WOW! THE GOOD CHINA. THE NICE LINEN TABLECLOTH...
WHAT ARE WE HAVING?
CONGRESSMAN. HE WENT FOR A SWIM AND I COULDN'T RESIST.
I'M GUESSING MARTHA STEWART DIDN'T HAVE A RECIPE FOR THAT.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED.
"CANNIBALISM: IT'S A GOOD THING."
http://www.slagoon.com
12-23

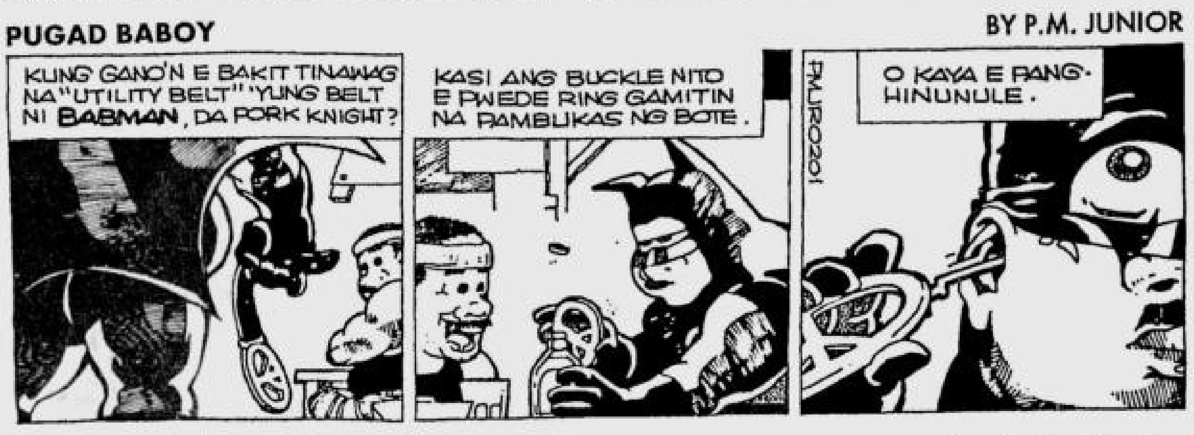
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


READY, ZOE?
READY!
BUT-
READY, HAMMIE?
WEDDY!
I DON'T THINK.
BYE. WE'LL SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
SIGH
SMOOCH!
THE BEST THING ABOUT THE HARDWARE STORE IS THAT THERE'S NO DRESS CODE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

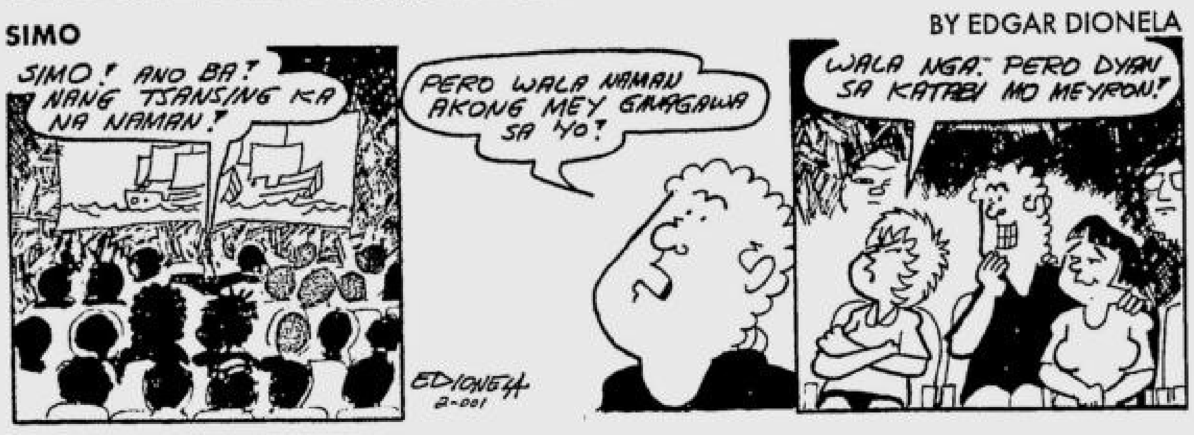
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KINIKILALA KA NA NG INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
OWS?
BAKA ISANG PANAGINIP NA NAMAN ITO!
TOTOO NA 'TO!
KINIKILALA KANG PINATALSIK NG PEOPLE POWER!

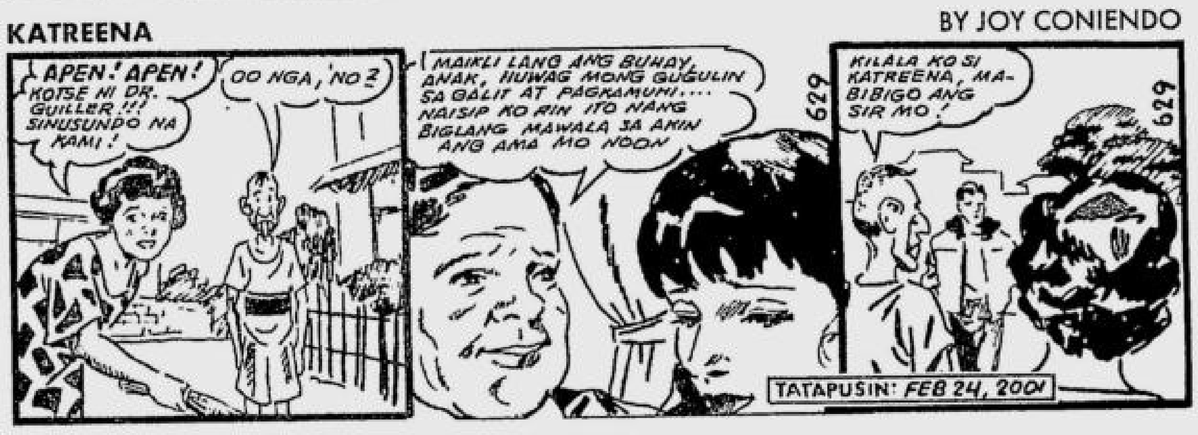
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUNG GANO'N E BAKIT TINAWAG NA "UTILITY BELT" 'YUNG BELT NI BABMAN, DA PORK KNIGHT?
KASI ANG BUCKLE NITO E PWEDE RING GAMITIN NA PAMBUKAS NG BOTE.
PMJR0201
O KAYA E PANG-HINUNULE.

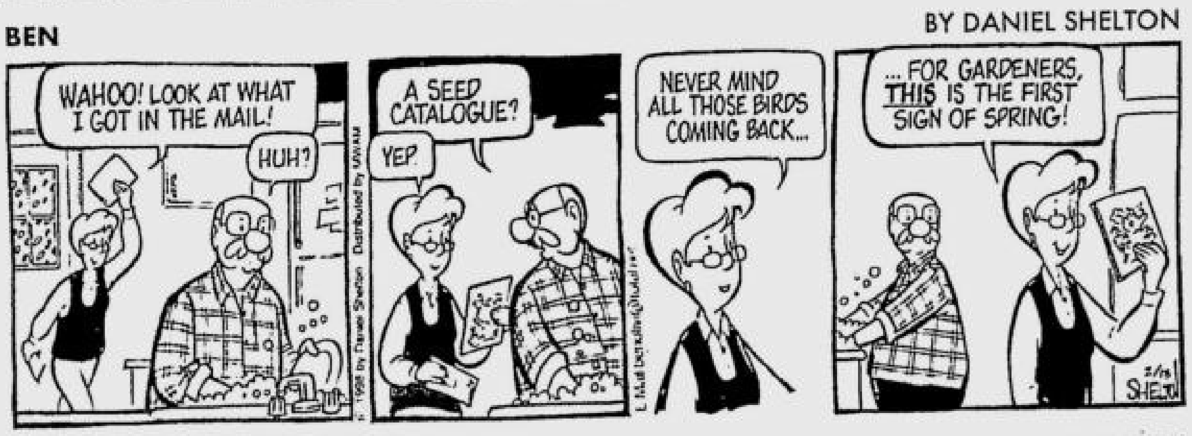
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO! ANO BA? NANG TSANSING KA NA NAMAN!
PERO WALA NAMAN AKONG MEY GINAGAWA SA 'YO!
EDIONELA 2-001
WALA NGA. PERO DYAN SA KATABI MO MEYRON!

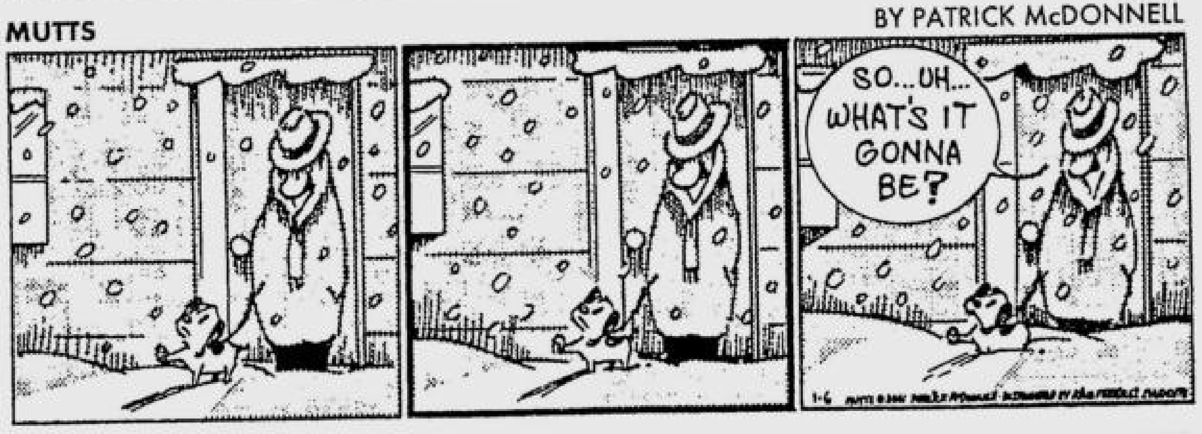
KATREENA BY JOY CONIENDO


APEN! APEN! KOTSE NI DR. GUILLER!!! SINUSUNDO NA KAMI!
OO NGA, 'NO?
MAIKLI LANG ANG BUHAY, ANAK, HUWAG MONG GUGULIN SA GALIT AT PAGKAMUHI.... NAISIP KO RIN ITO NANG BIGLANG MAWALA SA AKIN ANG AMA MO NOON
629
KILALA KO SI KATREENA, MA-BIBIGO ANG SIR MO!
629
TATAPUSIN: FEB 24, 2001

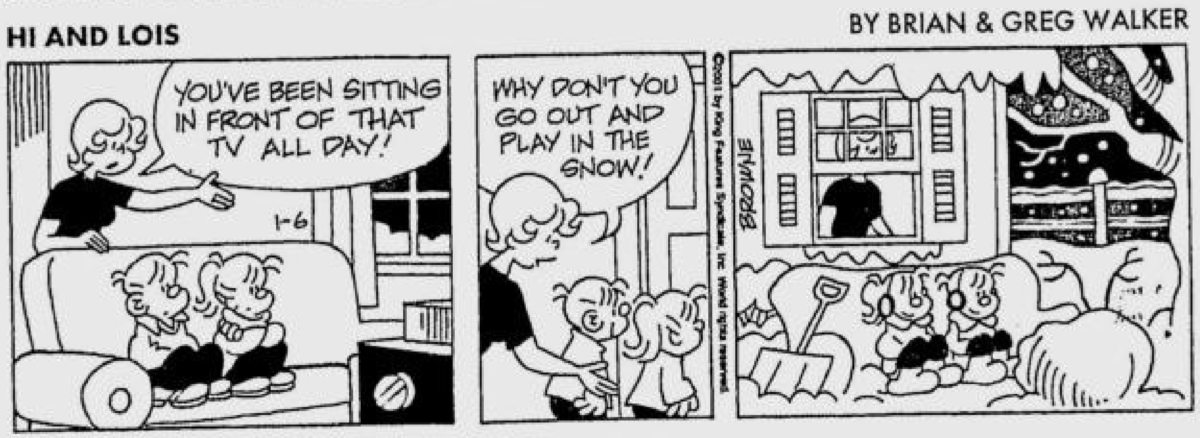
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAHOO! LOOK AT WHAT I GOT IN THE MAIL!
HUH?
A SEED CATALOGUE?
YEP
NEVER MIND ALL THOSE BIRDS COMING BACK...
...FOR GARDENERS, THIS IS THE FIRST SIGN OF SPRING!
SHELTON

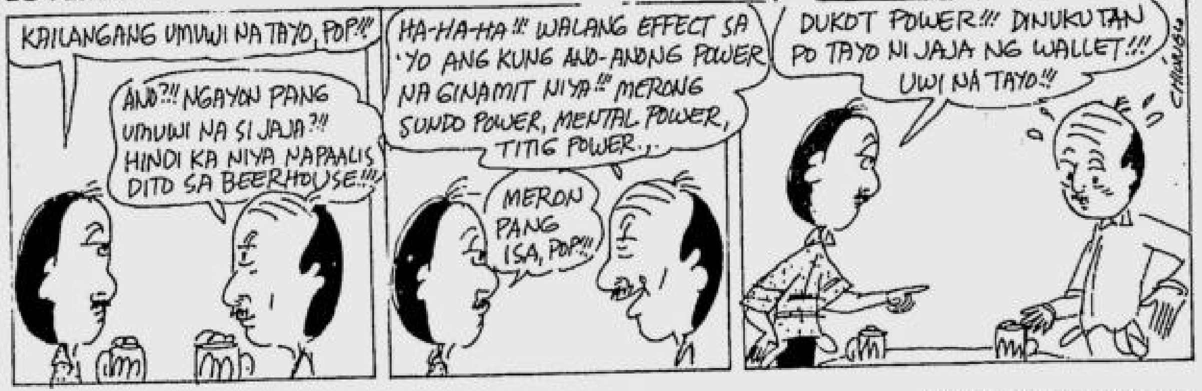
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SO...UH... WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
1-6

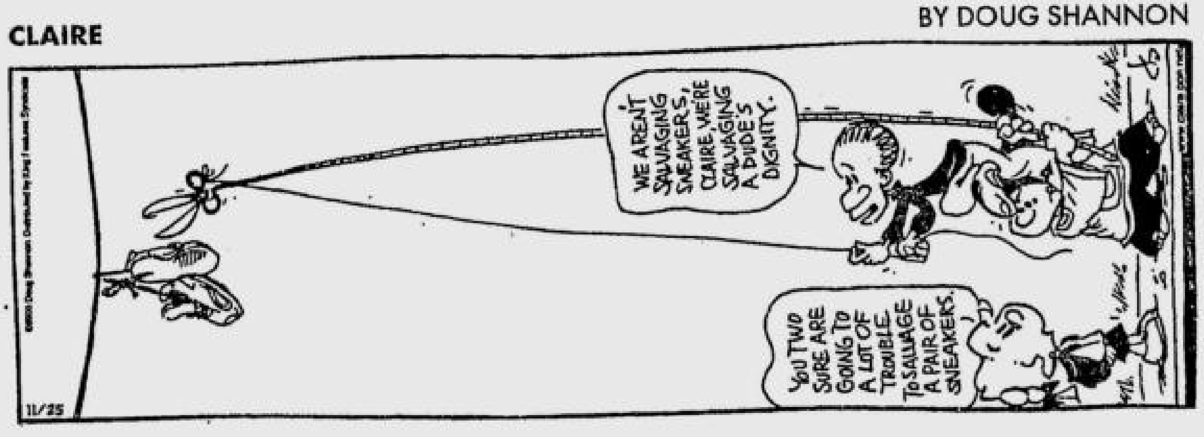
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU'VE BEEN SITTING IN FRONT OF THAT TV ALL DAY!
1-6
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND PLAY IN THE SNOW!
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAILANGANG UMUWI NA TAYO, POP!!!
ANO?!! NGAYON PANG UMUWI NA SI JAJA?!! HINDI KA NIYA NAPAALIS DITO SA BEERHOUSE!!!
HA-HA-HA!!! WALANG EFFECT SA 'YO ANG KUNG ANO-ANONG POWER NA GINAMIT NIYA!!! MERONG SUNDO POWER, MENTAL POWER, TITIG POWER...
MERON PANG ISA, POP!!!
DUKOT POWER!!! DINUKUTAN PO TAYO NI JAJA NG WALLET!!! UWI NA TAYO!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE BY DOUG SHANNON


WE AREN'T SALVAGING SNEAKERS, CLAIRE. WE'RE SALVAGING A DUDE'S DIGNITY.
YOU TWO SURE ARE GOING TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO SALVAGE A PAIR OF SNEAKERS.
11/25

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Wagner, Roberta Flack, Laura Dern, Greg Norman, Dame Judith Anderson, George Stephanopoulos

Happy Birthday: This will be a great year if you exercise extra discipline. This is the time to focus on your true desires and to push yourself to achieve the goals that have been out of reach for so long. It is your turn to stand up and be counted and to let others know that you mean business. Speak your mind, follow your dreams, and you won't be disappointed. Your numbers: 5, 8, 13, 17, 23, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can gain the most through business engagements or conversations concerning work. Push your ideas past important people. Your practical approach will pay off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Family outings will bring you closer together. You can make a big difference to kids if you spend time helping them with their goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your feelings will be easily hurt. Excessive eating and drinking will only add insult to injury. Delay or postpone important social activities. You need some time to yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will get along well with your partner. Don't let friends or relatives know too much about your personal life. Rumors will hurt your reputation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be afraid to spend a little money on worthwhile causes. You need to get involved in fund-raisers that will enhance your reputation and allow you to mingle with important people. Play the game, and you'll be sure to advance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take trips to visit old friends. Relaxation and social activities should be penciled in. You need to get away from the humdrum of your everyday routine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let others in on your secrets. You can arrange something very special for the one you love. Visitors in your home may be more than you can handle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel and entertainment will go hand in hand. New romantic encounters will be stimulating. Fund-raising events will lead to interesting connections.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is not the day to push your beliefs or attitudes on others. Do your own thing, but don't be offended if others would prefer to forgo your challenge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your efforts into creative endeavors or activities with children. You need to lose yourself in events that will take your mind off your worries.

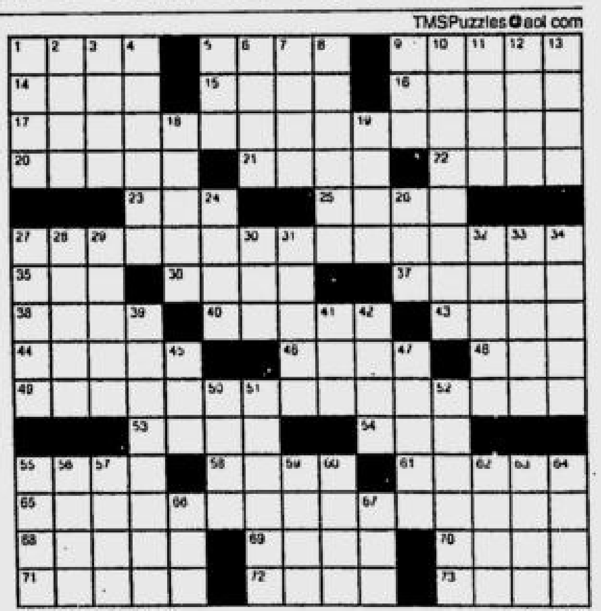
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look into ways to turn your financial situation around. Don't hesitate to sign deals that involve other people's money or property. You need to market yourself. You have a lot to offer, but you have to convince influential individuals to use your skills.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're in the mood for love. Channel your energy into special interludes with your mate. Spend quality time together, and you won't need or want company.

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, proactive and definitely ahead of your time. You can set new trends and persuade others to follow your dreams. You are powerful, progressive and positive.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL.
12/28/00

ACROSS
1 Molten metal waste
5 Compact clump
9 Acrobatic stunt
14 Dorothy's pup
15 Yankees' complement
16 Came up
17 1956 John Mills film
20 Fight off
21 Frost or Dove
22 Pipe fittings
23 Lacking experience
25 Glaswegian
27 1995 Vanessa Redgrave film
35 Tyler or Ullmann
36 Hibernia
37 Whoop it up
38 Tavern orders
40 Oven-cook
43 Full gainer or jackknife
44 Military music
46 Go away!
48 Intentionally so written
49 1954 Marlon Brando film
53 Way out
54 Digit
55 Strait-laced
58 Dateless
61 Sudden forward movement
65 1964 Fabian film
68 Musical drama
69 Church area
70 Cut and paste
71 Banquet
72 Soaked in arili
73 Hideouts

DOWN
1 Play lead
2 Ear flap
3 At the summit of
4 Regulate
5 Wildebeest
6 Speech imperfection
7 Aware of
8 Urgent request
9 Spotted
10 Ran off at the mouth
11 Pointless, in tennis
12 Understanding words
13 MacLaine movie, "Guarding __"
18 Uplift
19 Impress clearly
24 Machinery sound
26 "__ the ramparts we watched..."
27 San Antonio landmark
28 La Scala's city
29 There for all to see
30 Male sib
31 Leavening agent
32 Dispatch boat
33 Kline or Bacon
34 Choose by a vote
39 Plotters
41 Thar __ blows!
42 Grounds for a suit
45 Magic spell
47 From time long past
50 Desired object
51 Go to
52 Recycled
55 Coll. employee
56 Opportune
57 Notion
59 On vacation
60 Chip in
62 Au naturel
63 Ear to ear look
64 Newts
66 Make lace
67 Guided

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

I	T	E	M	S	■	A	M	I	S	H	■	B	A	H
N	O	V	A	E	■	M	O	N	D	E	■	R	C	A
S	M	A	R	T	C	O	O	K	I	E	■	E	E	R
■	■	■	■	T	H	U	G	■	■	H	O	A	R	D
B	A	T	T	L	E	R	■	S	T	A	N	D	B	Y
A	D	O	R	E	R	■	B	O	W	W	O	W	■	■
K	L	A	U	S	■	H	I	F	I	S	■	I	D	S
E	A	S	E	■	D	U	R	A	N	■	S	N	A	P
S	I	T	■	T	A	L	C	S	■	B	A	N	T	U
■	■	M	O	O	L	A	H	■	P	U	R	E	E	D
T	R	A	V	O	I	S	■	L	I	Z	A	R	D	S
B	A	S	A	L	■	■	■	B	A	E	Z	■	■	■
O	F	T	■	S	A	F	E	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
N	E	E	■	U	T	I	L	E	■	R	H	I	N	O
E	R	R	■	P	E	E	L	S	■	D	I	T	S	Y

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12/28/00

ANSWER ON MONDAY

Star Movies airs live coverage of Oscar nominations

MONTAGE

STAR Movies presents the "73rd Annual Academy Award Nominations Special" on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 9:30 p.m.

Among the early favorites to get the coveted nominations are Golden Globe award-winners Ridley Scott, director of "Gladiator," Ang Lee, director of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts for their performances in "Cast Away" and "Erin Brockovich," respectively.

Not to be ignored are Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic," Cameron Crowe's "Almost Famous and "Billy Elliot."

Bard's play on TV

Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer, Rupert Everett, Stanley Tucci, Calista Flockhart, Anna Friel and Chrsitian Bale star in the new version of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." On Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies,

It all begins when Hermia (Friel) and Lysander (Dominic West) flee deep into the forest to escape Hermia's father, who wants her to marry Demetrius (Bale). Demetrius goes in pursuit of his true love (Hermia) and is soon followed by yet another desperate lover, Helena (Flockhart). Helena adores Demetrius but finds her affections dreadfully unrequited.

Chaos ensues when the fairy trickster Puck (Tucci) administers a love potion, causing the lovers to mix and match, with outrageous results.

Love and laugh on 'Oprah'

Learn, love and laugh this Valentine week on "Oprah!" Mondays to Fridays at 1 p.m. on Star World. Oprah talks about "Living with Integrity" on Feb. 12. Fend off your in-laws with Dr. Phil on Feb. 13 as he help couples caught between feuding in-laws. Take a hard look at death in the "Death Penalty Controversy" on Feb. 15 and join Jane Fonda in her battle for women's rights in "Sanctioned Violence Against Women" on Feb. 16.

Valentine special

Italianni's rustic old-world charm serves as the perfect backdrop for Valentine's Day. From Feb. 12 to 16, the restaurant offers servings of delectable dishes topped off by glasses of fine wine. The dishes include Fried Calamari, Penne Arrabiato, Chicken Parmigiana and Creme Brulee, with two complimentary glasses of red or white wine.

At TGI Fridays, Valentine diners will receive P250 gift certificates good on their next visit. The gift certificates are valid until March 31, 2001.

Another album from Tootsie

Tootsie Guevara comes up with a follow-up to her platinum album "Kaba." Tootsie's third release under Star Records, "Sa Puso Ko" is a collection of 12 songs about love, heartbreak and relationships.

Its carrier single "Nang Dahil Sa Pag-ibig is an original composition by Larry Hermoso.

Tootsie will be promoting her album at mall shows to be staged on Feb. 16 at SM Manila, Feb. 17 at SM Bacoor, Feb. 18 at SM Southmall and Feb. 22 at SM Pampanga.

Revivals from 1001

Relive the '60s and the '70s with the 1001 Band, playing every Saturday at Kiko's Bar, Makati ave., corner Jupiter st. Members include Berg Villapando on lead guitar, Cash Manalang on rhythm, Deng Jereza on bass, Oca Asor on keyboards, Malu Fernando on drums and Emily Palacios and Kate Padriones on vocals.

For details, call 895-1666.

Jennifer Lopez's new album

Latina singer Jennifer Lopez gets it loud once more with another seductive single called "Love Don't Cost a Thing" from her second album, "J.LO." Other cuts from the album are: I'm Real," "Play," "Come Over," "That's Not Me," "Secretly" and "Dame." (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

GUEVARRA. Third album for Star Records.

LOPEZ. Seductive single.

What makes a good director?

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

DIRECTORS are supposed to be the top men and women on the theater-TV-film totem pole. But what makes a good director? How is this key talent trained, encouraged and developed? What makes one director better than another?

Group portrait

Looking back on my experience as a performer, I've come up with this group portrait of the director I and other actors I know have worked with:

The best director has great insights into a wide range of human experience and the skills to express and communicate them in his medium of choice, knows how to bring out the best in his actors, and is knowledgeable about audience psychology.

As you may guess, it's hard to find an artist with such a diverse combination of skills and aptitudes. So, actors often have to settle for working with directors who are good in one area, but deficient in others.

Quite a number of directors are weak in the key area of script analysis, out of which the best insights spring. They say they don't have time to go into all the reading and thinking and analyzing and interpreting required to come up with those insights.

As a result, the productions they direct may be strong in terms of visuals and performances, but the viewing experience doesn't leave the audience with much beyond the moment's entertainment.

Opposite flaw

Some other directors suffer from the opposite flaw: They are too scholarly and script-bound in their work. As a result, their productions are too formal and dry, and don't draw viewers into experiencing them in a personal manner, and empathizing with the characters who figure in them.

There are also directors who work off the cuff, without much training or preparation, bereft of the skills needed to work well with the other members of the production team. This limits the effectivity of their shows because they lack substance, texture and integration.

In addition, limited directors can't motivate actors well because they don't understand that performers aren't automatons who can switch emotions on and off at will.

This is a major limitation because actors are the "frontliners" of most productions, and if they come up with stilted, implausible performances, the script's dramatic points can't come convincingly to life.

Finally, there are directors who can't figure out how the audience thinks and feels, so they can't achieve their production's intended effect.

An understanding of human psychology and group dynamics is of the essence here, and directors have to do a lot of observing and analyzing and *living* before they can acquire this essential ability.

Congenitally lazy

Of course, there are directors who have other limitations, like being congenitally lazy and unwilling to do solid work. They rehearse a show for only one or two weeks and expect the production to pass muster. Of course, it doesn't.

Some directors don't start out lazy, but once they've gotten a good reputation, they rest on their laurels and cut corners, so their subsequent productions *are* indolent. In time, the actors and viewers who used to admire their work start looking for other directors to patronize, and the burned-out director is left with only his tattered reputation for sullen company.

A few directors are so good that they can periodically reinvent themselves, keeping their work fresh and dazzling *or* confounding their most loyal followers.

One outstanding director started out as a very experimental artist, intentionally doing things differently from other people in his field. He believed that actors were merely the director's puppets, and manipulated them as such.

Then he decided to turn realistic, so he dropped all of his arch, experimental posturings and motivated his actors to come up with genuine and emotionally-rich performances. Instead of working in big theaters, he mounted intimate shows in very small venues, so the audience could focus on his actors' felt performances.

Minimal movements

Next, he took up an advanced course in a country where "vocal" acting was prized. When he came home, of course, he had his actors practically singing their lines, while keeping their movements to a minimum.

After some years, he visited yet another country, where "Method" acting was popular. It required fiercely introspective performances.

Upon his return, therefore, his actors had to transform themselves into veritable acolytes at the altar of the great god, Remembered Emotion.

Next, he got ticked off when audiences became noisy, so he decided to "discipline" them into paying attention, by requiring his actors to *whisper* instead of project their lines. Of course, the audience started to complain, so the ploy was soon dropped.

Finally, he grew old and decided not to direct his actors at all, leaving interpretation and even their blocking all up to them. That's when they left him.

But, for the actors who worked with him for decades, it was quite a trip—like acting in a veritable anthology of styles and attitudes, making them theater people for all seasons!

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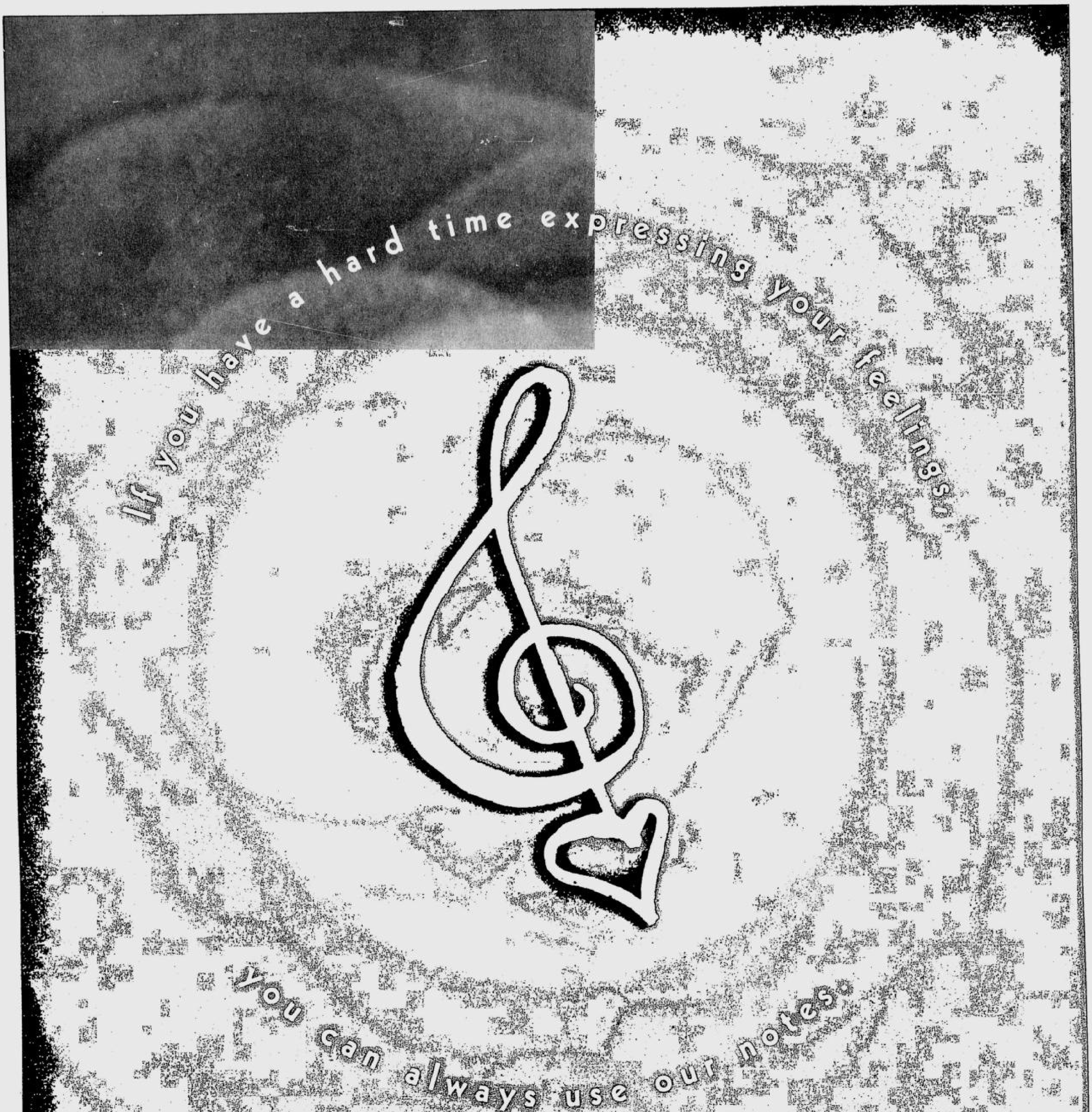
If you have a hard time expressing your feelings,
you can always use our notes.

THE AYALA MALLS VALENTINE'S CONCERT

featuring Lani Misalucha, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Geneva Cruz,
Vina Morales, Agot Isidro & Kuh Ledesma

Embrace the music as six lovely divas sing you love songs that will sweep you off your feet.
Admission is free.

CONCERT SCHEDULES:

Ayala Center	Feb 16 · Lani Misalucha, 6pm, Glorietta 4 Park	✿ Feb 17 · Zsa Zsa Padilla, 6pm, Glorietta 4 Park
Alabang Town Center	Feb 10 · Geneva Cruz, 5pm, Activity Center	✿ Feb 11 · Zsa Zsa Padilla, 7pm, Town Plaza
	Feb 18 · Vina Morales, 5pm, Activity Center	✿ Feb 21 · Agot Isidro, 5pm, Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu	Feb 17 · Kuh Ledesma, 6pm, Lagoon Area	

AYALA CENTER
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The Ayala mall Events

Ano ba yung suot niya?!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 18

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- A strange pigeon Page 2
- Wanna be a JI writer? Page 3
- Story: Lita & Krissy Page 6
- The Lunch Box Page 12

The Puppynapper's Back!

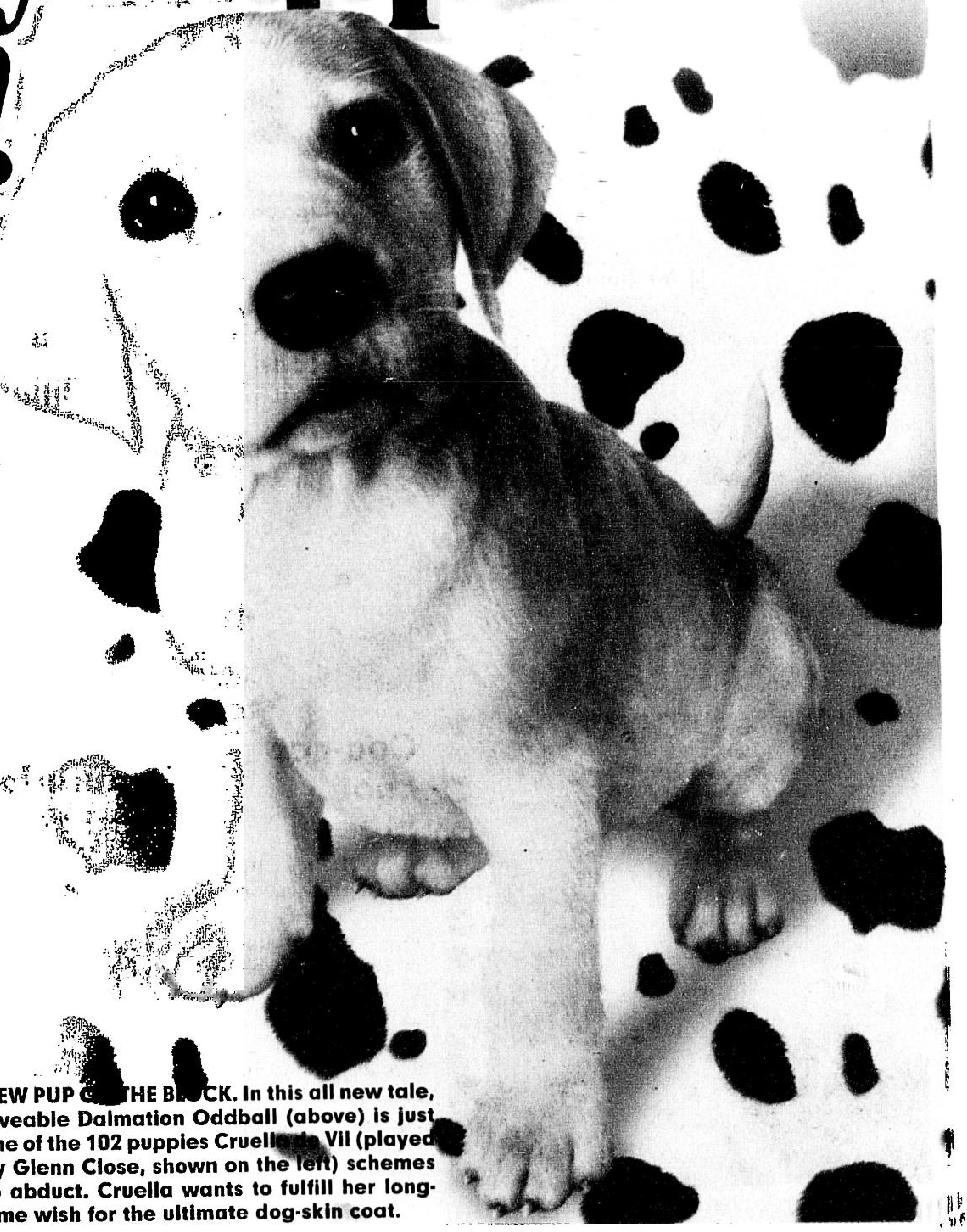
GRRRRR. They say she's out on good behavior but we don't buy it. Come on, Cruella de Vil (just listen to her name for crying out loud), that heartless dognapper who once stole pet dalmatians to turn them into coats is now. . .a dog's best friend?!?

Well, that's what it looks like in "102 Dalmatians," Disney's sequel to the 1996 hit movie "101 Dalmatians."

Fresh out of prison, it really looks like Cruella has left her furious fur-hunting days behind. She even saves a dog shelter from being shut down. But then, one day, spotted dalmatian puppies (and one. . .um. . .unspotted fellow) start disappearing. Normally, Cruella would be to blame, but why are the police arresting the dog shelter's manager instead?

Actress Glenn Close returns as the despicable-but-"reformed" Cruella and in this new film, she's joined by French actor Gerard Depardieu who plays fashion designer Jean Pierre Le Pelt. Hmmm, something tells us those

The Puppynapper's/ p.4



NEW PUP ON THE BLOCK. In this all new tale, loveable Dalmation Oddball (above) is just one of the 102 puppies Cruella de Vil (played by Glenn Close, shown on the left) schemes to abduct. Cruella wants to fulfill her longtime wish for the ultimate dog-skin coat.

WORLD SCOPE

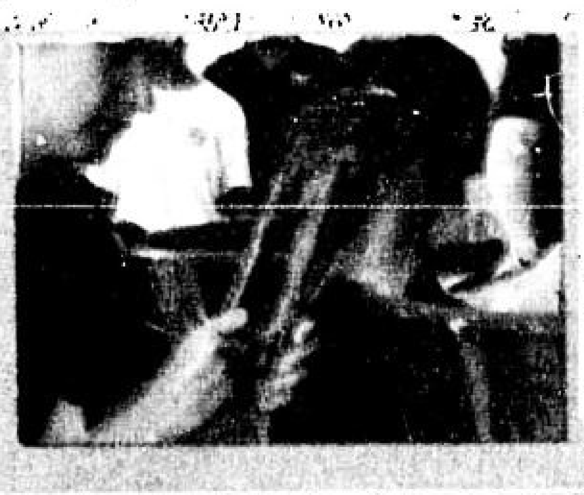
Agassi gets a joey

USA's Andre Agassi holds the winner's trophy and a toy kangaroo after winning the men's singles final against Arnaud Clement from France at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Jan. 28. Agassi won the match 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

AP

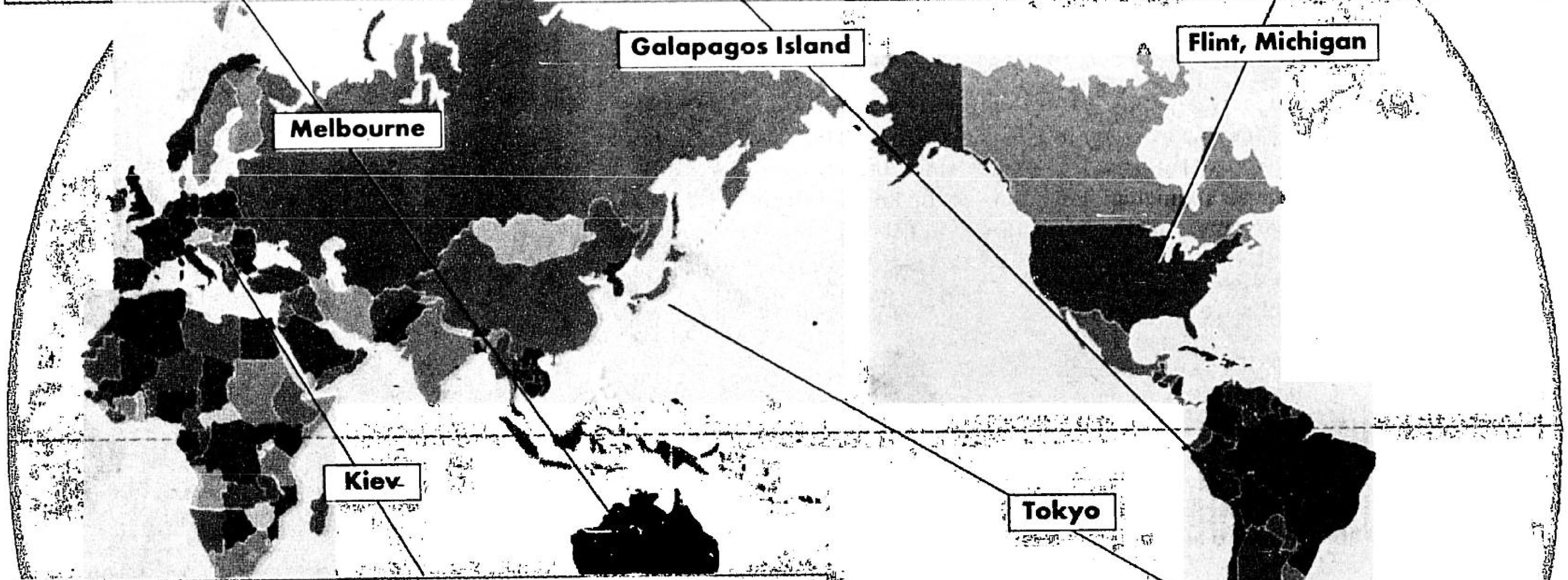
Close call

A MEMBER of the International Fund for Animal Wildlife washes a pelican covered by fuel, Jan. 28. Some 185,000 gallons of fuel were spilled into the waters off the Galapagos from the crippled Ecuadorian tanker Jessica on Jan. 16. But environmentalists said there appears to be little damage done to the rare wildlife living there. Whew! *AP*

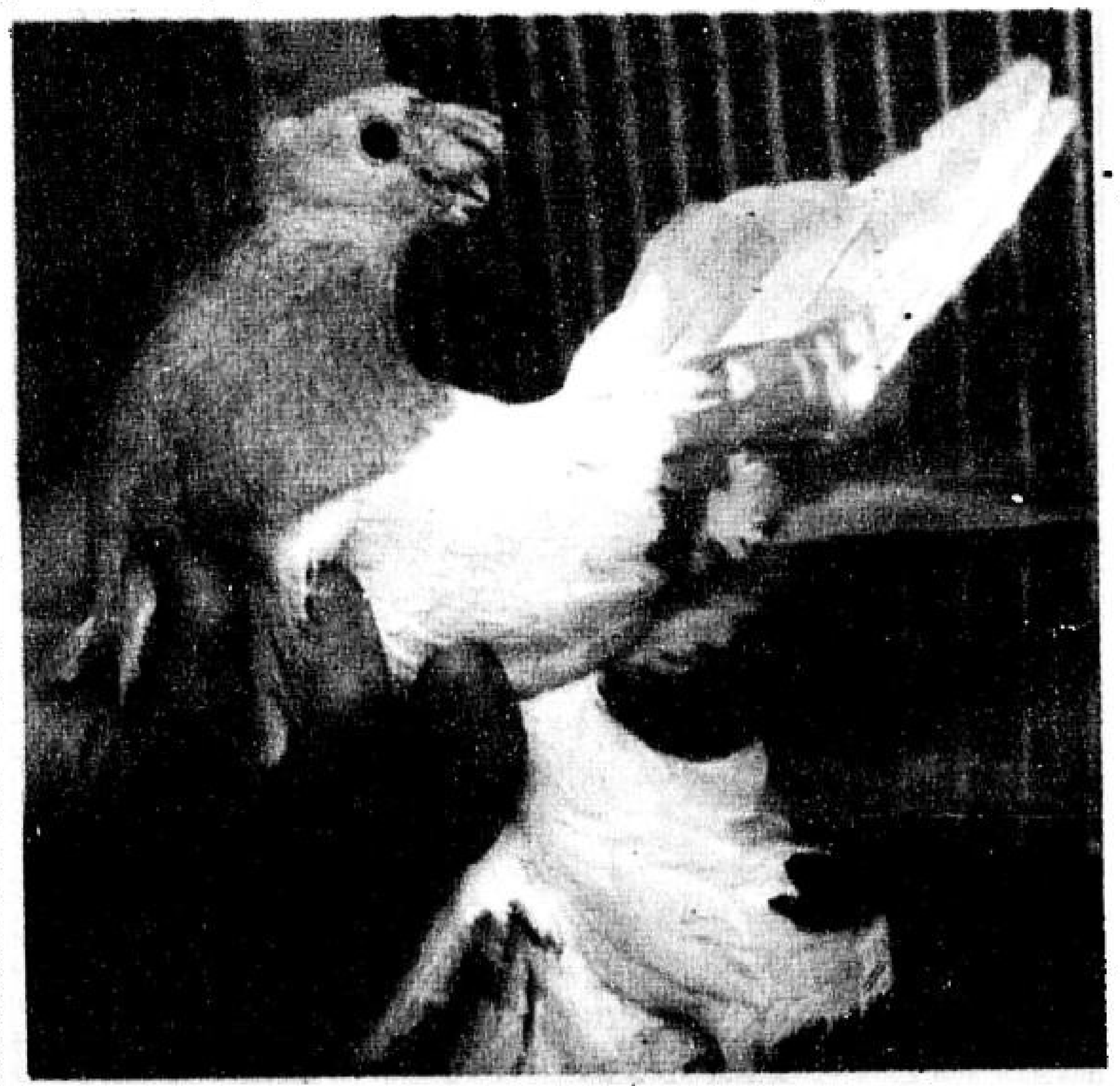


Twin births

KELLIE Clark of Davison Township (top) gave birth to her son, Gage Daniel, on Thursday morning, Jan. 25 at a hospital in this town. Her twin sister, Kimmie French (bottom) gave birth on the same day to her son, Logan Allen French. The sisters are fraternal twins and live only five minutes away from each other. Their husbands work at the same construction company. Kellie and Kimmie shared their mother's womb as babies but came from two different egg cells. Identical twins are babies born from one egg cell. *AP*



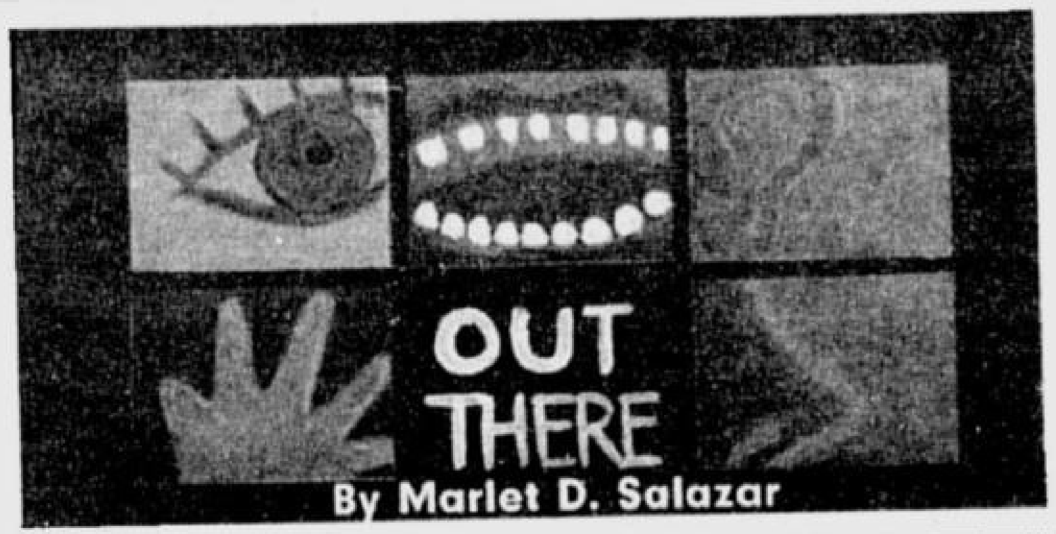
Coo-coo-cool pigeon



MEET Uzbek, the two-wattle pigeon. Uzbek belongs to a rare species found in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. Uzbek amazed pigeon enthusiasts with his wattles during the International Pigeon Exhibition in the Ukrainian capital. *AP*

Audition day?

BULLDOG Kome pushes the keyboard of a toy electric piano during a promotion contest organized by the Universal Studios Japan. Maybe he's hoping to get hired as a talent? Universal Studios Japan is scheduled to open in Osaka, western Japan in around four months. *AP*



By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

SUMMER WRITING. Public school students ages 11-16 can participate in a free writing workshop to be held by the Junior Writers' Club come summertime. Just prepare the following stuff for screening: a letter of intent, a clear photocopy of your school ID, your principal's or teacher's recommendation, and self-addressed stamped envelope. Mail these to: Junior Writers' Club, PO Box 355, PCPO, Pasay City, 1301. Deadline for submission is on March 25. Hurry, the workshop begins in April.

CARD-MAKING. Check out the free card-making workshops at any Cravings branch. Learn how to create your own zany greeting cards just in time for Valentine's Day. You don't even have to bring paper or crayons. There will be art materials waiting for your creative hands to use for free. Cravings restaurant branches can be found along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, Wilson Street in Greenhills, the Shangri-La Plaza Mall along EDSA, Robinsons Place in Manila and Festival Mall in Alabang. The workshops will be held today and tomorrow.

Out on Video

DINOSAUR. You can now watch earth's prehistoric inhabitants right in your living room. Walt Disney's "Dinosaur" is now out on video. Meet Aladar and his beloved friends as they go on adventure after adventure. Grab your copy now at any Video City branch, Astrovision, and other stores nationwide.

Cable Picks

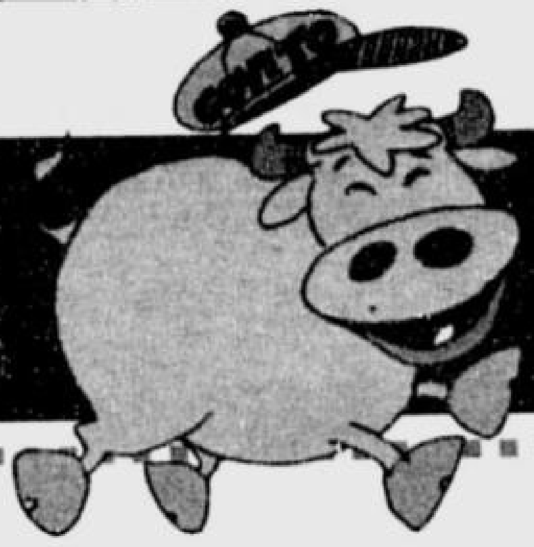
LOVE DAY'S ANIMAL DAY TOO. Like their human counterparts our cuddly animal friends also have a lovelife. Find out more about their fascinating, and sometimes complicated, courtship in National Geographic Channel's "Love in the Wild" on Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. Right after that witness a pair of jackals who become partners for life and stay loyally together to bring up their young in "The Golden Dogs." Also, watch "Foxes of the Kalahari" where the bat-eared foxes stick together through thick and thin to fend off predators and hunt for prey.

BRAINY BIRDS. The brain of a bird may seem small but come to think of it, birds are one of the fastest learners in the animal kingdom. On Feb. 13 discover the wisdom of parrots, crows and ravens from the scientists. Don't miss it on National Geographic Channel.

NICK'S QUEST. Getting near a polar bear? Hanging out with the cool penguins? Probing the life of the venomous platypus? It's not just an adventure of a lifetime for Nick Baker who seems to be fascinated with wild animals. NGC features "Nick's Quest" on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. Nick goes on a stroll as he dons his warm clothes in "Polar Bear." He also finds out how cool is cool are the "Penguins." That's not about it, Nick goes in search of one of the world's strangest mammals—the duck-billed "Playtpus."

NICK Baker goes on a wild search on NGC's "Nick's Quest."

Wanna be a JI correspondent?



WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!
The Junior Inquirer
Philippine Daily Inquirer
P.O. Box 2353
Makati Central Post Office
1263 Makati City

The Puppynapper's Back!

(from page 1)

two are up to no good but we'll leave you guys to watch the movie to find out.

Bit of the old and cool new stuff too

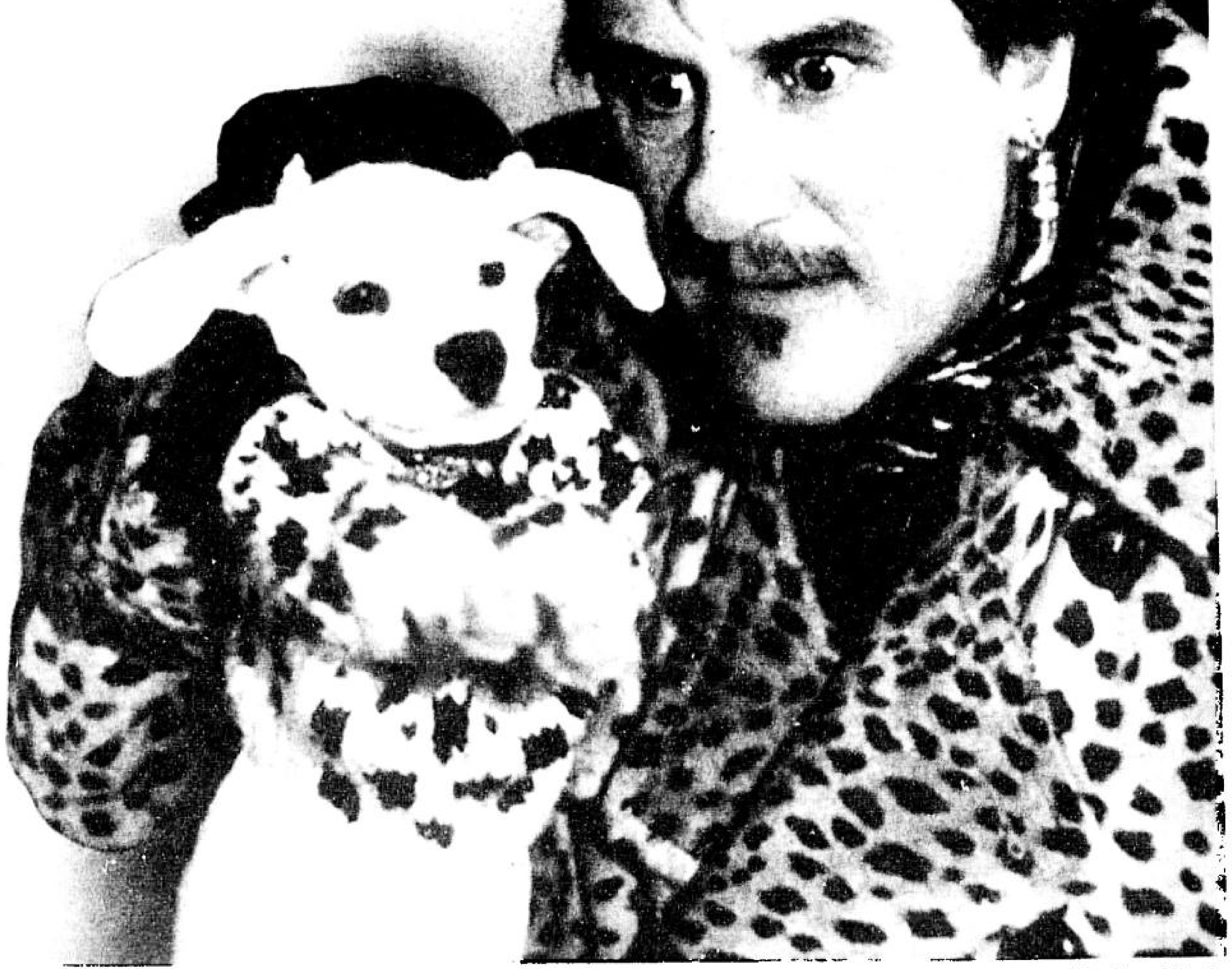
Dalmatians Freckles and Maisie, who played Pongo and Perdy in "101 Dalmatians," are back too. They play Dottie and Dipstick, parents of some of the missing pups. In this sequel, other dog breeds also join them in the cast—a bunch of Border Terriers and Bullmastiffs play Chomp and Drooler, respectively. Then there's also Fluffy the hairless (!) Chinese Crested dog and, Waddlesworth, the Macaw who thinks he's a dog (sheesh, there's someone who woke up on the wrong side of his eggshell).

Ten eight-to-ten-week-old dalmatian puppies also get to play Oddball, the heroine of "102 Dalmatians." Oddball, by the way, is the only pup without spots and the special effects guys had a heck of a time erasing the spots on each of their puppy actors via computer. In the scenes that would have been too dangerous to shoot with a real puppy, a completely computer-generated image of Oddball was used. Think viewers will be able to tell the difference?

"102 Dalmatians" opens in Metro Manila theaters on February 14.

Christine C. Rivero

The Puppynapper's/ p.10



(Top) A SERIOUS MATTER. As long as Cruella is free from prison, all the Dalmatians in London are in danger. **(Above) WHO'S THE ODDBALL?** Uh-oh, French fashion furrier Jean Pierre Le Pelt (played by Gerard Depardieu) is in cahoots with Cruella and now has Oddball in his clutches.

Journal Pages

Hope, love and peace

By Majella K. Protacio
Elizabeth Seton School
Parañaque City

HOPE
PEACE
steph

A LOT of you are probably wondering why I am writing about these three words: hope love and peace. I'm sure you've already talked about them in class. Teachers usually teach us their meanings. But why do some people still do the opposite of these words?

Some kids are quite okay in school. But when they get home, they throw tantrums and are mean to their *yayas* or their parents. Some kids are unruly and rowdy until they grow up.

Is this the way to treat people who care for us or love us? I've been guilty of the same behavior in the past. Sometimes, I think I still make that mistake.

I hope that by writing about this, I would make you think harder about the meaning of hope, love, and peace.

Try not to fight with people. Wake up each morning with a cheerful smile on your face and in your heart. Pray every early morning and thank God that you're still alive. Tell him with all your heart to send His angels and saints (also His Holy Spirit) to guide you.

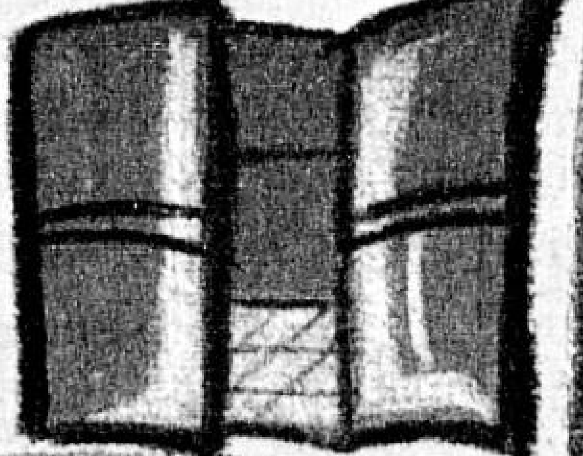
And in case you hurt someone, try to remember these letters: H.L.P. These mean "Help Lord Please!"

Or hope, love and peace.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

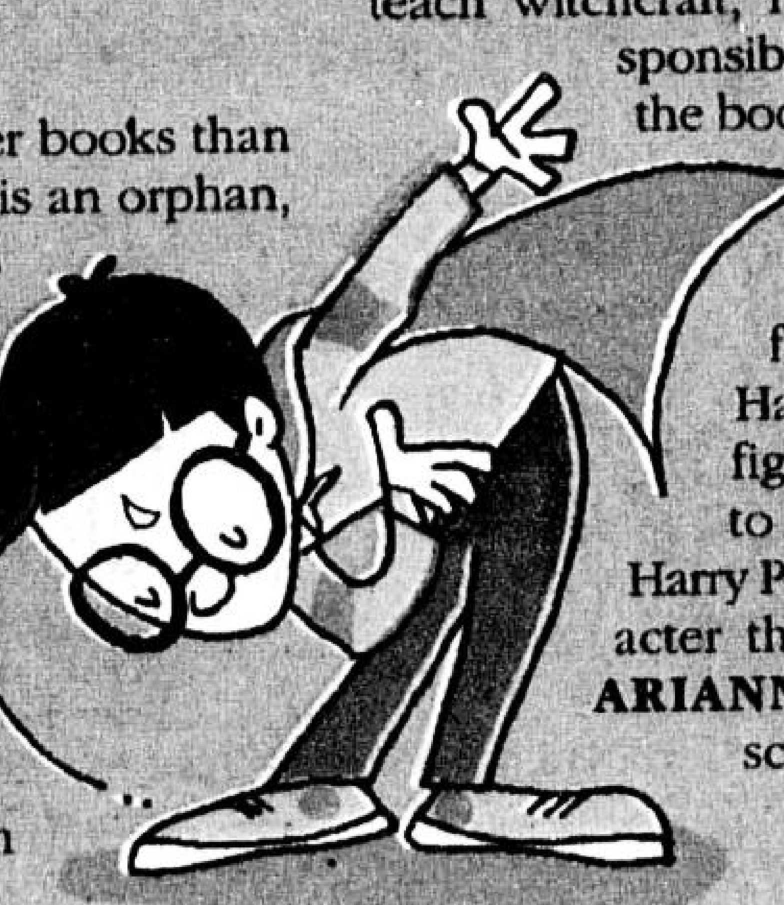
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **jl@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Harry Potter's a good guy!

THERE is more to the Harry Potter books than magic or witchcraft. Harry Potter is an orphan, yet his friends are his family and you can see that he cares about these people. This can inspire orphans to do the same. Another character, Hermione Granger, is also a good example. She's an excellent student! I think there's a lot to learn from the Harry Potter books. Think of all the good moral lessons you can get from the books.



And for those who are afraid that the books teach witchcraft, I think parents have the responsibility to talk to their kids about the books they read and maybe discuss the questions they might have.

I am not trying to pick a fight with those who think Harry Potter is bad. I am only fighting for the right of children to read good books. I think Harry Potter is one example of a character that is strong and dignified.– **ARIANNE ANGELA SOLIS**, high school sophomore, San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Cavite City

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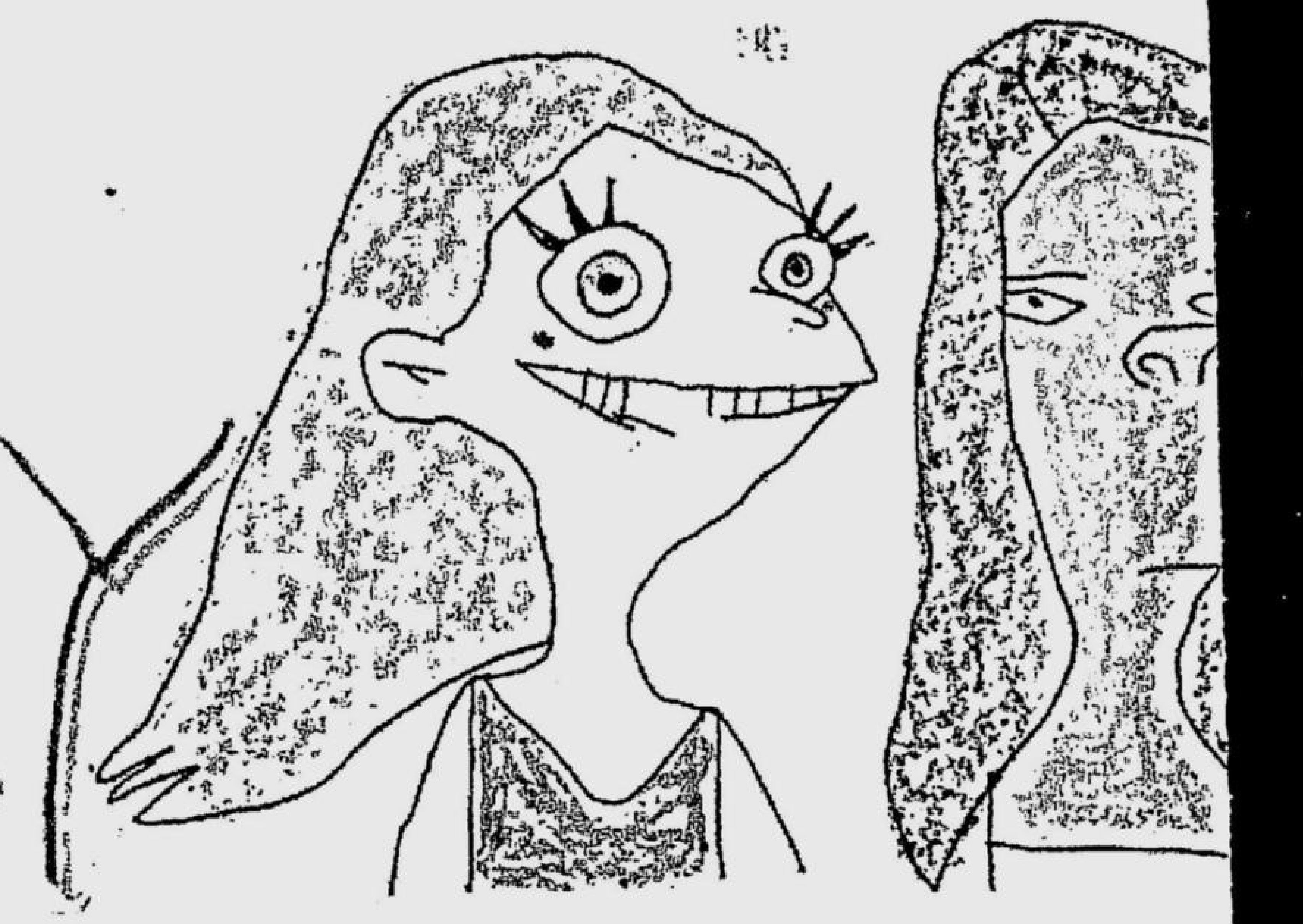
Lita and KRISSY



Two girls, an alien spacecraft and why it's so important to have a friend

STORY BY LUIS JOAQUIN M. KATIGBAK
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JASON MOSS

FOR or By KIDS

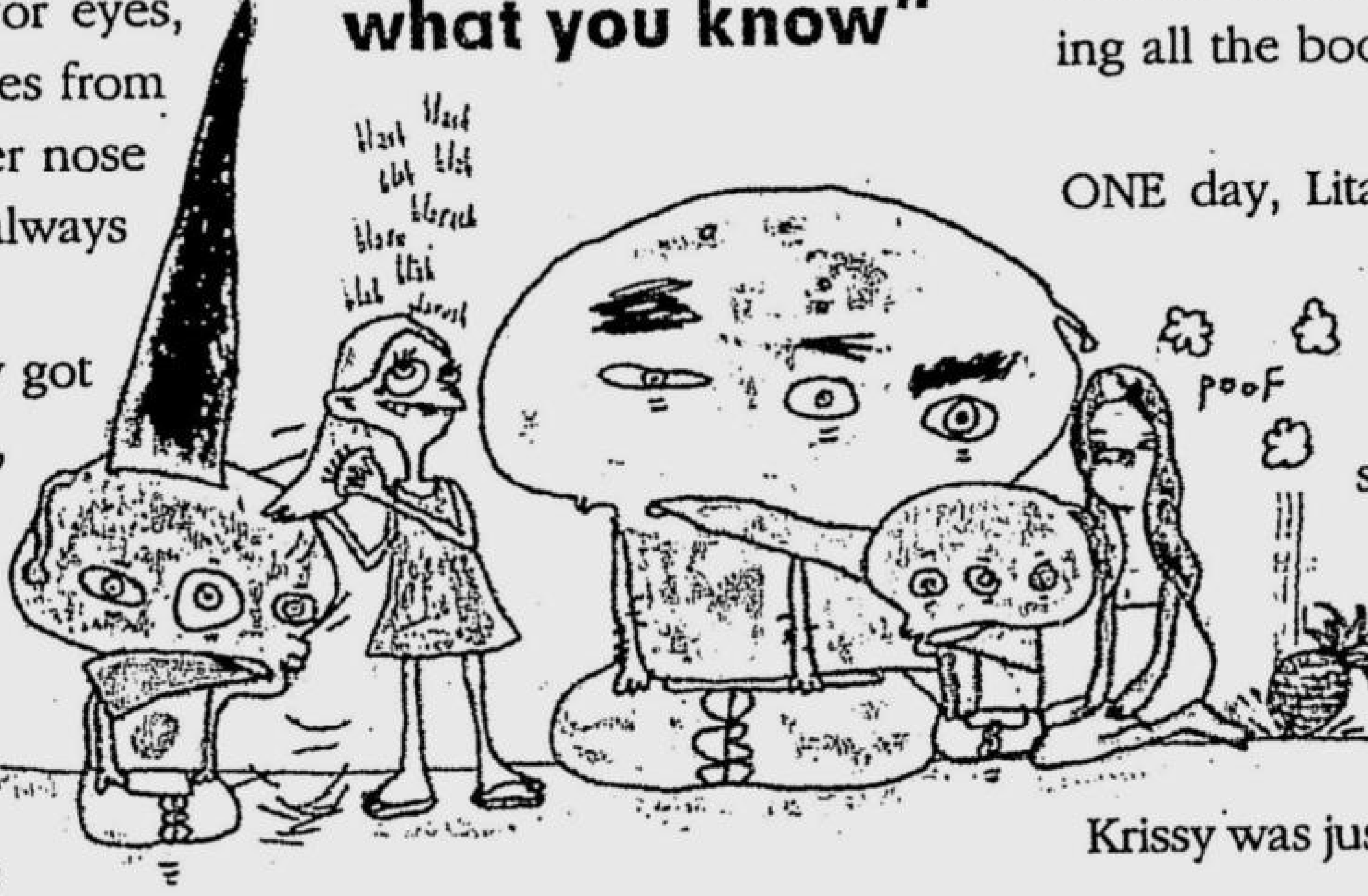
ONCE upon a time in Quezon City, there lived two little girls named Lita and Krissy. They were cousins, but they did not look anything like each other.

Krissy (whose nickname was short for Kristine), had flawless, fair skin—skin as pale as a full moon, as smooth as polished marble. Her eyes were wide and bright and round. Her hair was a light brown color that would, in the light of the noonday sun, look almost like shining copper. Even as a little girl she had a high-bridged, delicate nose that seemed fit only for smelling the finest imported perfumes.

Lita (whose nickname was short for Alitaptap, a name her classmates often teased her about) was a dark girl, with hair black as an old frying pan's bottom. She had narrow slits for eyes, and scratches on her elbows and knees from climbing trees and playing games. Her nose was small and turned up, as if she was always smelling something bad.

Ever since they were babies, Krissy got all the attention. At family gatherings, their *Titas* and *Titos* would bend over her, cooing, "Oh, what a pretty girl, what a lovely cute baby." They would fight over who got to carry her next. They would pass her around with great care and admiration, as if she were made of delicate crystal. Meanwhile, Lita would n
haps an approving glance from a stray *Tito*, and a comi
"Hmm. Nice baby." Then she would be left mostly alon
contentedly on her milk bottle, cradled in her mother's a

"We are visitors to your planet," the leader said, addressing both Lita and Krissy. "We wish to learn about your ways. Tell us what you know"



WHEN she was growing up, Krissy's parents delighted in
her up in elegant party frocks, no matter what the occasi
loved showing the other parents how w
their daughter looked in the latest fashi
parents could not afford clothes like that,
Lita was growing up, she often had to
with hand-me-downs of her *Kuya*'s be
T-shirts and shorts.

Krissy spent all her time being dresse
shown off, tasting rare and expensive
and letting her *yayas* groom and perf
She was not allowed to stay out in
because it might ruin her flawless skin.
not allowed to read too much, so that sh
not someday need glasses that would
pretty eyes. Lita, on the other hand, sp
of time running and playing outdoors, a
ing all the books in their house.

ONE day, Lita and Krissy were playin
enormous front lawn of
house. To be exact, only
playing—she was rear
some of Krissy's dolls i
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they were two expeditio
racing against each other
the world's highest m
Krissy was just sitting underneath a huge

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Lita was
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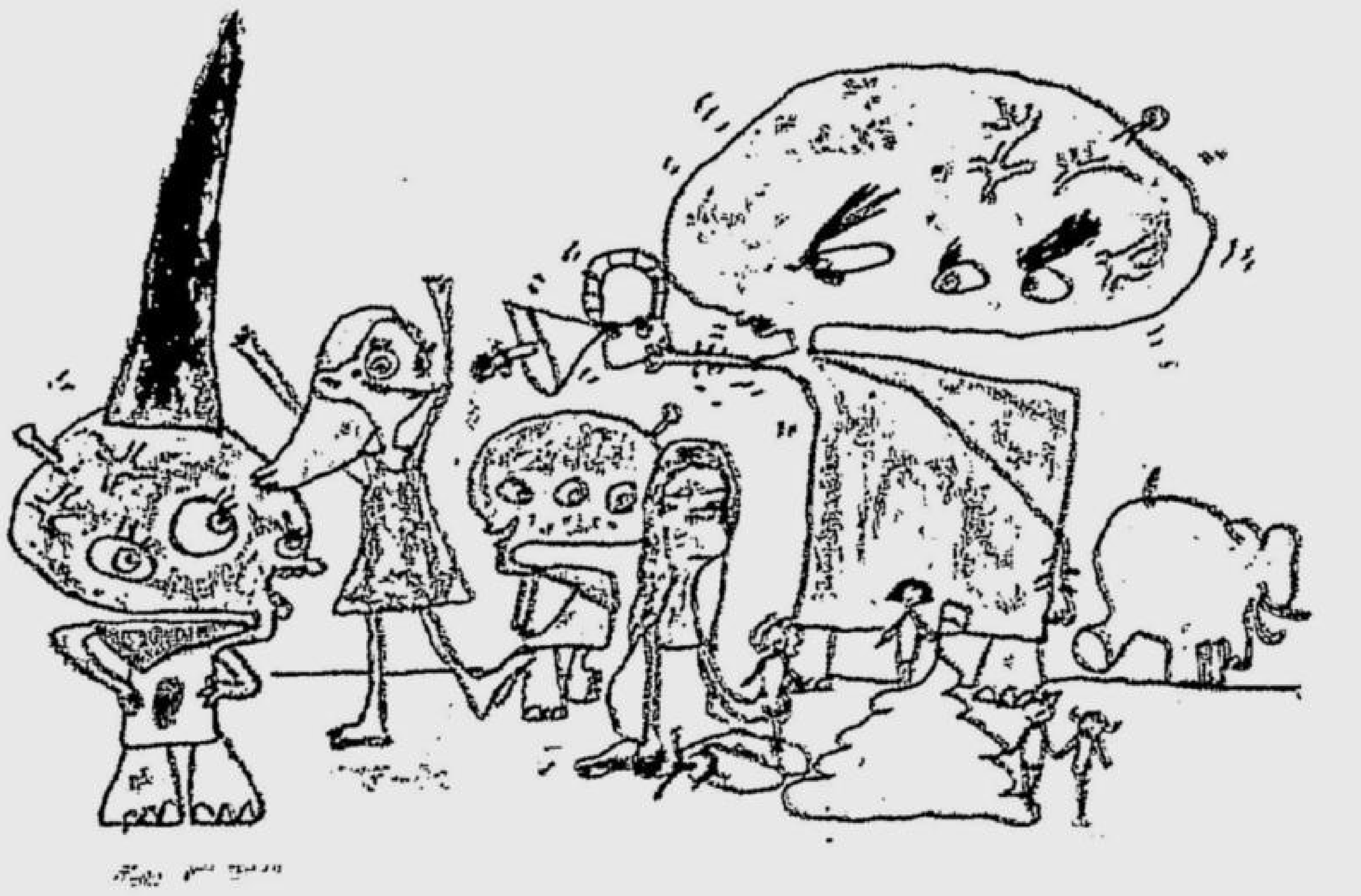
to climb
ountain.
standing

umbrella, brushing her hair and looking at herself in a pocket mirror.

Suddenly, the sun was blotted out by a gigantic disc-shaped object—it was a flying saucer. It landed on the enormous lawn, and a little metallic ladder extended from its side. Three little aliens descended the ladder. They were not much taller than Lita or Krissy. Their heads were shaped like mangoes and they each had three eyes and one set of antennae. One of them wore a red conical hat. He was the leader.

"We are visitors to your planet," the leader said, addressing both Lita and Krissy. "We wish to learn about your ways. Tell us what you know."

Lita and Krissy looked at each other, and then looked at the aliens. Lita said, "Okay." Krissy said, "You go first, Lita."



SO Lita showed them how to make a *sipa* out of a bottlecap and some frayed plastic rope, and how to make a *saranggola* out of a couple of sticks, some string and a plastic bag. She then showed them how to keep the *sipa* bouncing in the air with your foot, and how to fly the *saranggola*. She told them all the fairy tales and myths she had read, and she also told them stories that explained many things, such as "Why a Pineapple Has a Thousand Eyes," and "The Legend of Bernardo Carpio." The aliens waved their antennae in interest.

Krissy told them about the brand of shampoo and conditioner she used, about how many dresses she had, and about how in a few years she would be attending lots of parties. The aliens' antennae drooped in boredom.

"THANK you both," the leader said, after Lita and Krissy were finished. "This has been very educational, and very confusing. How can one of you,"—and here he pointed at Krissy—"be so boring, and the other," he pointed at Lita, "so interesting?"

"Hey!" Krissy said, offended. Lita shrugged.

"Would you like us to vaporize her for you?" the leader asked Lita.

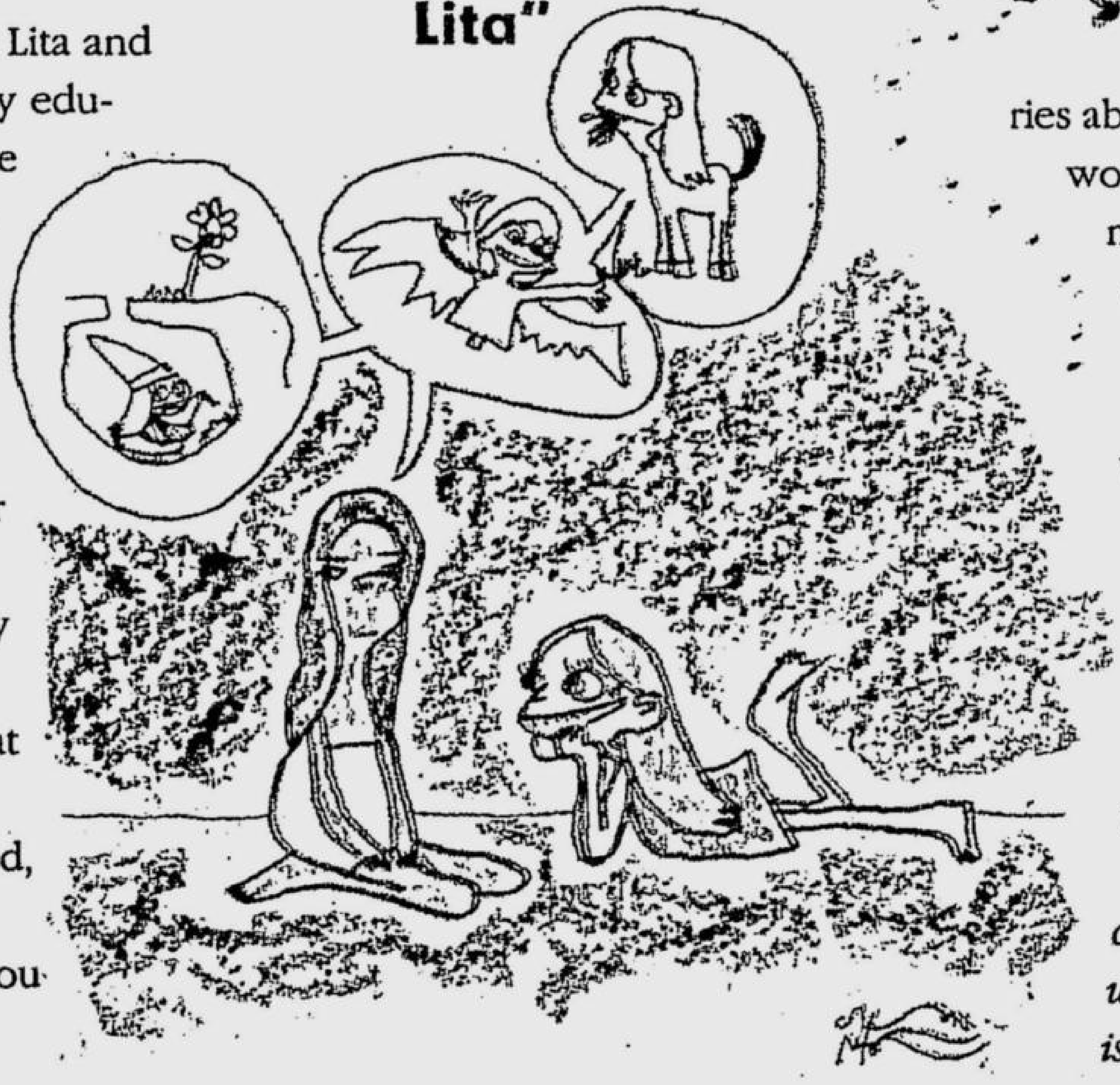
"Vaporize me? But why?" Krissy shrieked.

"On our planet, we vaporize things that we think are useless," the leader said.

"Useless? But, but," Krissy stammered, "I'm—I'm *pretty!*"

"Not to us," the leader said. "To us, you both look weird."

" 'How can one of you,'—and here he pointed at Krissy—'be so boring, and the other,' he pointed at Lita, 'so interesting? Would you like us to vaporize her for you?' the leader asked Lita"



"Please don't vaporize her," Lita told the alien leader. "I think I'd get into trouble. Besides, she's really a nice person, after all."

"Okay," the leader said. "We'll be leaving now. Thanks again." The three little aliens waddled back up the metallic ladder and climbed into their flying saucer. The ladder retracted, and the saucer took off into the sky in one swift, silent motion.

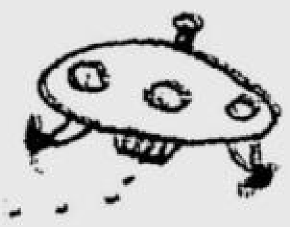
"Thanks for saying I'm a nice person," Krissy said to Lita.

"You are," Lita said. "You always let me play with your stuff."

"Can you show me how to kick that *sipa*-thing?" Krissy asked.

"Sure," Lita replied.

They spent the rest of that afternoon playing games and climbing the trees in Krissy's yard. Afterwards, when it was getting dark, Lita told Krissy some horrible stories about women with bat-wings who would split in half and fly off at night, leaving their legs behind, and about the irritable dwarves who live underneath the ground, and about monsters who were half man and half horse. Krissy never had so much fun before in her life.



***Luis** writes lots and lots of stories in a cave-like apartment in Diliman, Quezon City.*

***Jason** is a young, up-and-coming visual artist and aliens would probably not think that he is boring.*

Sam's Plan

She's only 6 years old, but Samantha Hope Ang Sy already has a grand plan for her future

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

IN A QUIET house on a small street, we met a little girl in a pretty pink dress. Her name is Samantha Hope Sy. At the dining room of her house, she sat beside us, grinned brightly and said, "I have many dreams."

At first Sam told us she wants to be a pianist. "I look at my teacher while she is playing," she explained. Sam was talking about her teacher at St. Jude Catholic School where she is in Prep-2. Then Sam also said, "I want to become a principal of a school. I want to become a principal so I can make books."

Leading the way up to her *yaya*'s room, Sam told us excitedly, "I have lots of paper upstairs! I cut them up to become books."

"Storybooks?" we asked. Sam shook her head, "No, math and spelling." Ah, we said, they're books for other kids to study then. "No," Sam giggled finally, " I make the books and I study them too!"

Sure enough, in her *yaya*'s room we found a box overflowing with the "books" Samantha herself made. On sheets of scratch paper she drew coloring books and even colored some of them already. Other sheets had all kinds of number problems while others had spelling exercises. One piece of paper, for example, had a connect-the-dots and fill-in-the-blanks assignment on how to tell time.

"I wrote down 'Please Do' in red ballpen so I won't forget," she pointed out proudly. When we had gone back downstairs, Sam mentioned what else she would like to do when she grows up.

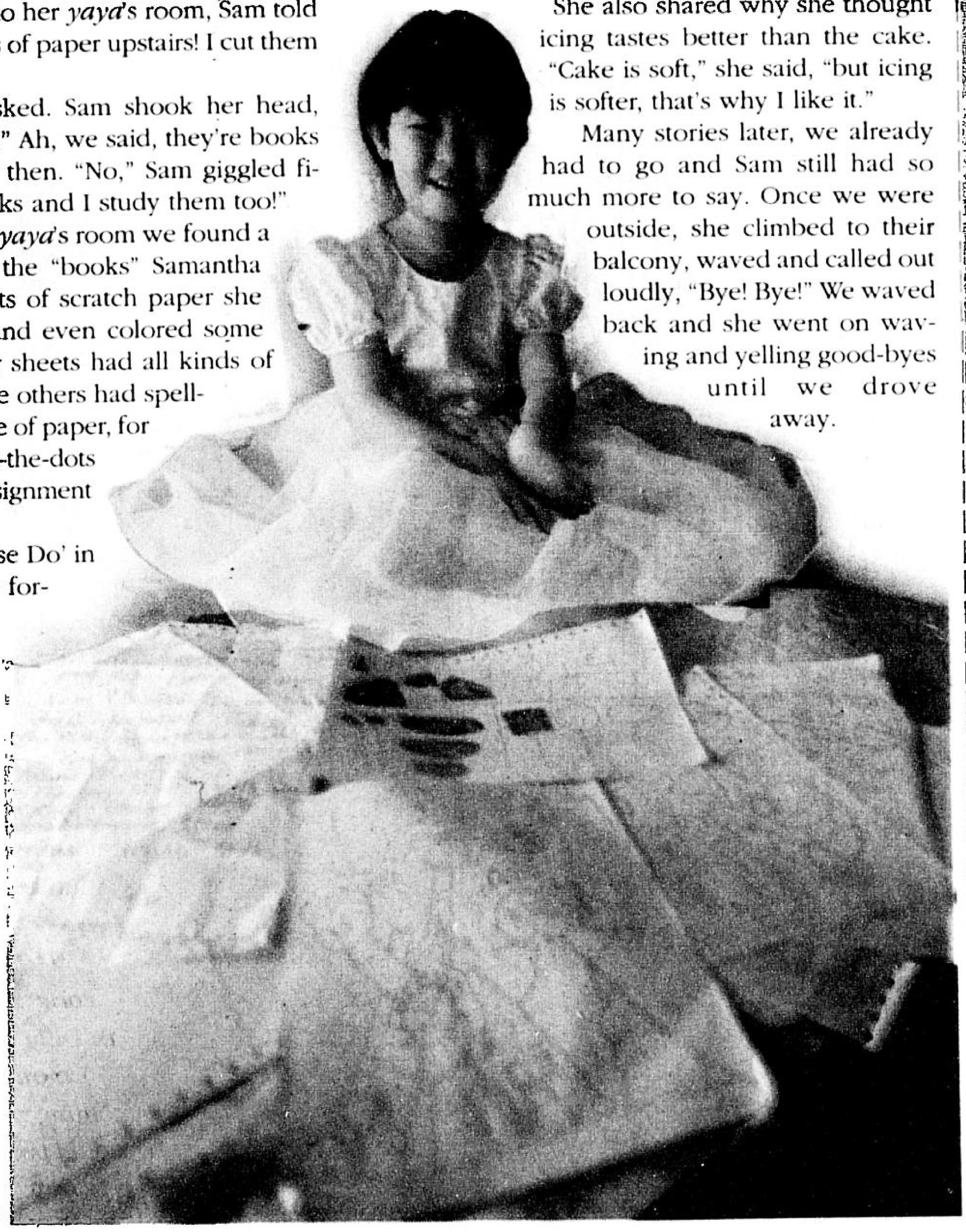
"I want to be a doctor, a dentist, an optical. . .ah," pausing, she asked, "what do you call that? An eye doctor?" Then finally she added, "A teacher, a baker and an astronaut!"

"I know I can't do all these jobs at the same time," Samantha said, "that's why on Mondays, I'll be a doctor, on Tuesdays a teacher, on Wednesdays a dentist. . ."

While we were at her house, Samantha told us a million-billion other things. She described how she calls up TV stations after school to ask about her favorite programs. "I get their numbers by dialing 114," she said. She explained how she ended up wearing glasses, "*Eh kasi*, every day, when I watch TV I'm too near. Now I don't go so near and I eat a lot of squash."

She also shared why she thought icing tastes better than the cake. "Cake is soft," she said, "but icing is softer, that's why I like it."

Many stories later, we already had to go and Sam still had so much more to say. Once we were outside, she climbed to their balcony, waved and called out loudly, "Bye! Bye!" We waved back and she went on waving and yelling good-byes until we drove away.



MY WORLD. Right now, Samantha uses a pencil to make her books, but when she becomes a principal, she says, "I will use a Pentel Pen."

JOAN BONDOC

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

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'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

______, ______________________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

____

It's in the Nose

Visiting Aussie writer Murray Heasley 'picked' his story from old memories and—ahem—other places

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

GROSS out alert. Somewhere in a book called "Shuz," a young boy sticks his finger up his nose. He pulls out the longest, yellow-green-brownest, gummy-syrupiest piece of snot (a.k.a. booger, a.k.a. *kulangot*) in the history of mankind.

Ooohh, but that's not the grossest part yet. He aims the sticky-slimy "missile" at the meanest girl in class. Ka-splat! It lands fresh and wet on her knee.

"I did it," grins Murray Heasley, "I guess I was about 9 then." Murray is a 49-year-old Australian writer who visited Manila for a short vacation last month and ended up talking about his work at a writers forum in the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. Now Murray says he didn't really mean to hit the girl in his class; he just wanted to flick the unusually long object away.

"I still remember her name," he chuckles, "that's the kind of thing you never forget."

Murray recalled quite a number of his 12-year-old misadventures while writing his book in the early '90s, but that wasn't the only reason he wrote "Shuz."

Sound familiar?

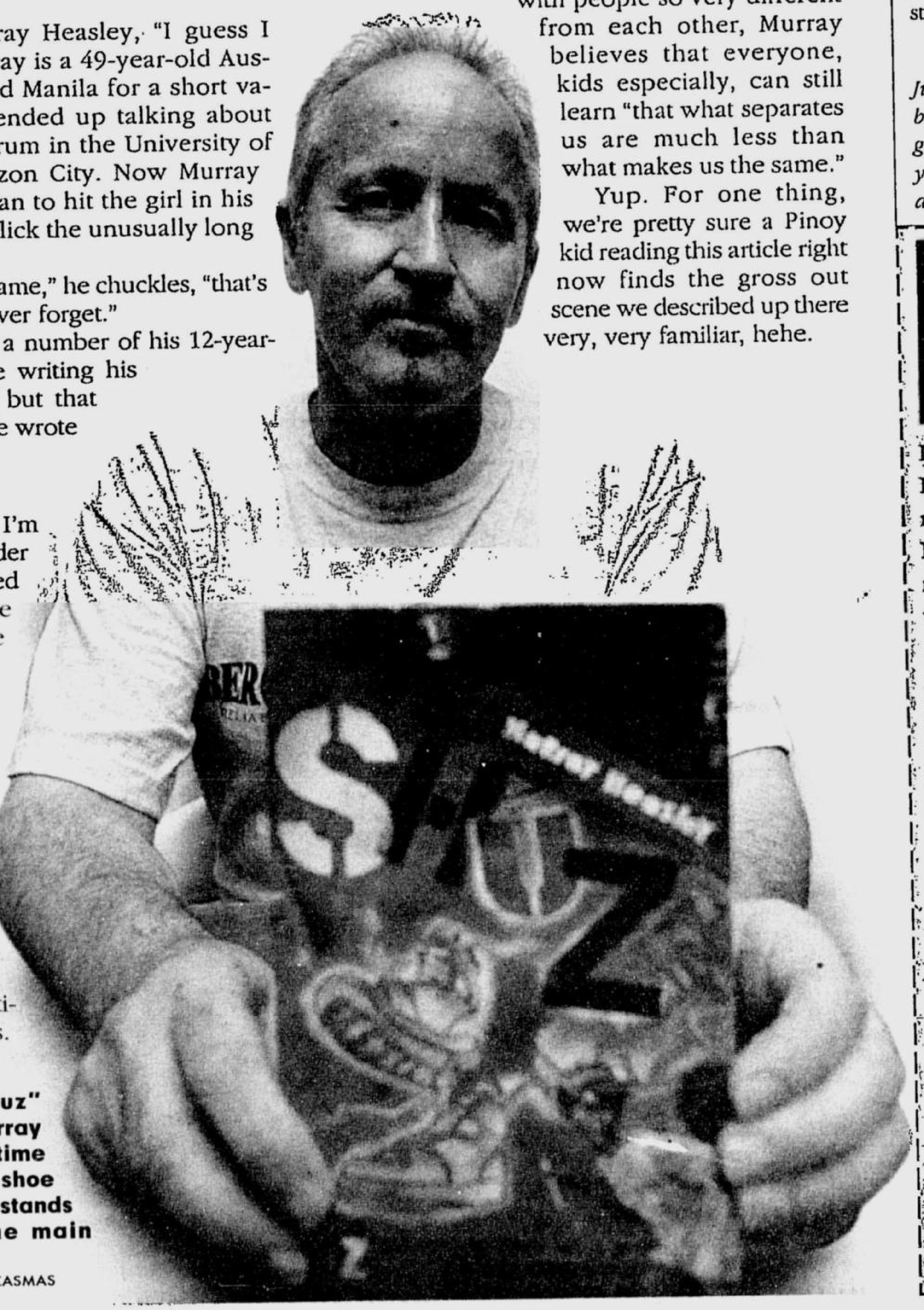
"I wrote it because I'm married to a Pacific Islander from a small country called Tonga," he says. "People from that country are like Hawaiians. They're Polynesian people." His two kids, then, are half-Tongan. Some years back, Murray relates, his son "felt bad about being brown."

That's when he decided to write his book. "I wanted (my children) to have an appreciation of what it's like to be part of a multiracial country," he adds.

So "Shuz" is about a bunch of seven kids from different racial families. "There's an Italian, a Greek, an aboriginal Australian, a Pacific Islander, a Chinese boy. . .but they're all Australians," says Murray, "They're all Australian kids."

In big Australian cities like Sydney and Melbourne, Murray explains, it's pretty normal to find kids of different races in a classroom. Faced with people so very different from each other, Murray believes that everyone, kids especially, can still learn "that what separates us are much less than what makes us the same."

Yup. For one thing, we're pretty sure a Pinoy kid reading this article right now finds the gross out scene we described up there very, very familiar, hehe.



WEARIN' SHUZ. "Shuz" refers to "shoes." Murray wrote the book at a time when there was a big shoe fad in Australia. It also stands for the names of the main characters.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is
my ____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) ____________________;
2) ____________________;
3) ____________________;
4) ____________________;
and
5) ____________________.

My nominee lives at ____________
____________________.
Give him/her a call at __________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail
at ______________.
By the way, I'm ______________
____________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
____________________.
You may call me at
____________________.

¿ThinkathoN?

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Love Lines

COME Valentine's Day, the lines that below lay to your love you might say. But some words are missing, and it's up to you to do some thinking. So fill in the blanks, dear romantic, and see if your score will make thy heart ecstatic. And to perhaps help you do better, we've revealed each missing word's first letter. By Cupid's mark, the perfect delight is getting all 24 right.

1. *Love c_____ all; let us too y____ to love.*
—Virgil, "Eclogues"

2. *Tis better to have loved and l___*
Than n___ to have loved at all.
—Alfred Tennyson, "In Memoriam"

3. *Come live with me and be my Love,*
And we will all the pleasures p____
That hills and valleys, dale and f____
Or woods, or steepy mountains yield.
—Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"

4. *If all the world and love were y____,*
And truth in every shepherd's tongue,
These pretty pleasures might me m___
To live with thee, and be thy love.
— George Chapman, "The Nymph's Reply to the Passionate Shepherd"

5. *Drink to me only with thine e____,*
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss but in the cup
And I'll not look for w____.
— Ben Jonson, "To Celia"

6. *A Book of V____ underneath the Bough,*
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread – and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness –
Oh, Wilderness were P_____ enow!
—Omar Khayyam, "Rubaiyat"

7. *Cold in the earth, and the deep snow piled above t___!*
Far, far removed, cold in the dreary grave!
Have I forgot, my Only Love, to love thee,
Severed at last by Time's all-wearing w___?
– Emily Brontë, "Remembrance"

8. *If I have f_____ in my love*
And in my soul am free
Angels alone, that soar above, Enjoy such l_____.
—Richard Lovelace, "To Althea from Prison"

9. *He jests at scars, that never felt a w____.*
But, soft! what light through wonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious m___.
—William Shakespeare, "Romeo and Juliet"

10. In secret we met / In silence I g____
That thy heart could forget, / Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee / After long years,
How should I greet thee? / With silence and t____.
– George Gordon, Lord Byron,
"When We Two Parted"

11. *He was my North, my South, my East and West.*
My working week and my Sunday r____,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last forever;
I was w____.
—W. H. Auden, "Funeral Blues"

12. *How do I love thee? Let me count the w____.*
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My s___ can reach, when feeling out of sight.
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
—Elizabeth Barrett Browning,
"How Do I Love Thee?"

Answers:

1. *conquers / yield*
2. *lost / never*
3. *prove / field*
4. *young / move*
5. *eyes / wine*
6. *erses / Paradise*
7. *thee / wave*
8. *freedom / liberty*
9. *thee / wave*
10. *wound / moon*
11. *rest / wrong*
12. *ways / soul*

Ratings :

superbrain!
20 - 24

excellent!
15 - 19

good!
10 - 14

The Puppynapper's Back!

(from page 4)

DOTTIE (right) and Dipstick (left) find their puppies the objects of the twisted Cruella de Vil's scheme to abduct Dalmatians.

Treating the 'Pup Stars' Right

MORE puppies were used in "102 Dalmatians" than in the first movie so the production took extra care in looking out for their young four-legged actors.

● All filming took place around the puppies' natural sleeping feeding and playing pattern. Playtime was the only time the pups were made to act on camera.

● There was a fine netting surrounding the set so that the puppies wouldn't walk off the edges.

● All the steps the puppies had to climb were "puppy-sized." You see, the puppies tend to trip on regular stairs for humans.

● The grating on the floors the puppies stepped on were also sized down so their small paws wouldn't get caught.

● Every inch of the sets the puppies had to be in were doused in disinfectant. Even the actors had to step on footbaths before entering a "puppy zone." This way, the puppies were kept safe from all kinds of nasty germs.

Ang Regalo ni Carlota

KUWENTO NI CHRISTINE S. BELLEN
GUHIT NI HERB LIM FONDEVILLA

Panay ang hagod at suklay ni Carlota
Sa mahaba at maitim na buhok ng Nanay niya.
Isa, dalawa, tatlo.
"Nakakangawit Nanay"
ngumiti lamang ang kanyang ina.

Gustong-gusto ni Carlota ang buhok ng ina.
Ngunit mas madalas itong magulo kaysa maayos.
Na nilalaro at hinahablot ni bunso,
Kaya't nagugusot at sumasabog
ang mahaba at maitim na buhok
ng kanyang Nanay.

Habang ipinaghehele si Bunso
at nilalaro siya,
Habang nagluluto
at inaayos ang baon ng Tatay niya.
Habang naglilinis
at namamalantsa,
Habang nilalabhan
ang tambak nilang labada
at ang mga labada ni Aling Maria.

"Ang ganda ng Nanay ko,"
sabi ni Carlota.
Apat, lima, anim
Panay pa rin ang hagod at suklay niya
sa buhok ng ina.
"Palalamutian ko ng bulaklak
ang maitim mong buhok,
Gagawin kitang diwata."

Biglang naisip ni Carlota,
limang araw na lamang
at kaarawan na ng Nanay niya.
Naalala niya ang ipit na bulaklak
sa tindahan ng damit ni Aling Choleng.

"Aha!" sigaw ni Carlota
"Bakit?" nagulat na sabi ng ina.
"Wala po, wala po" sabi ni Carlota.
ngunit sa sarili'y:
"Ipit, ipit ang ibibigay ko kay Nanay!"
Ngunit wala siyang pera.

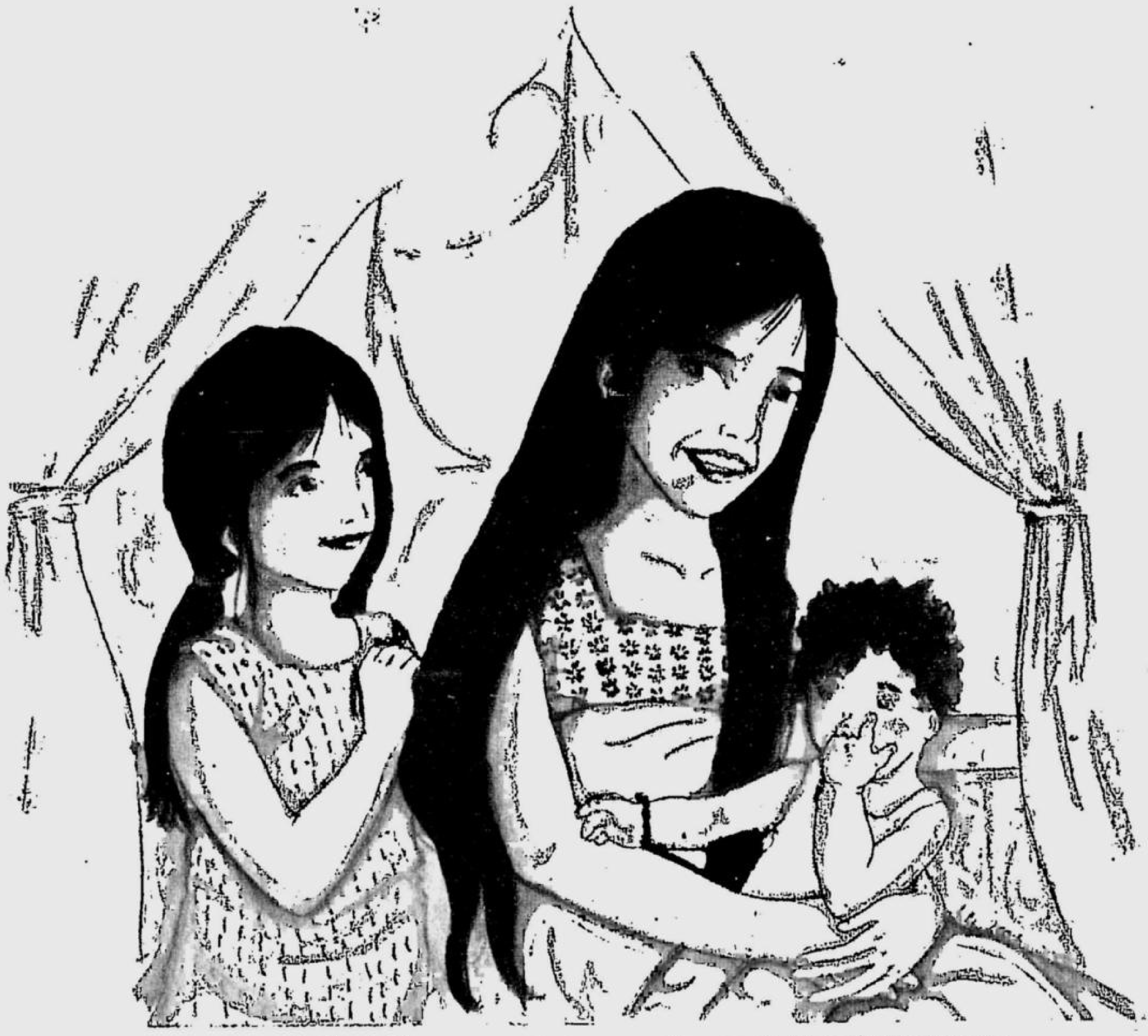
Kaya't nag-isip si Carlota
at nagbuo ng plano
nang maaring trabaho.

Sa unang araw,
nilinis at tinipon niya
ang mga basyong bote sa bakuran
at ibinenta sa labasan.

Sa ikalawang araw,
namitas ng bayabas
at inilako sa mga kaibigan
"Bayabas! matamis, malutong,
hinog, maniba lang!" sigaw ni Carlota.

Sa ikaapat na araw,
sapat na ang perang pambili
ng bulaklak ng ipit
sa tindahan ng damit ni Aling Choleng.

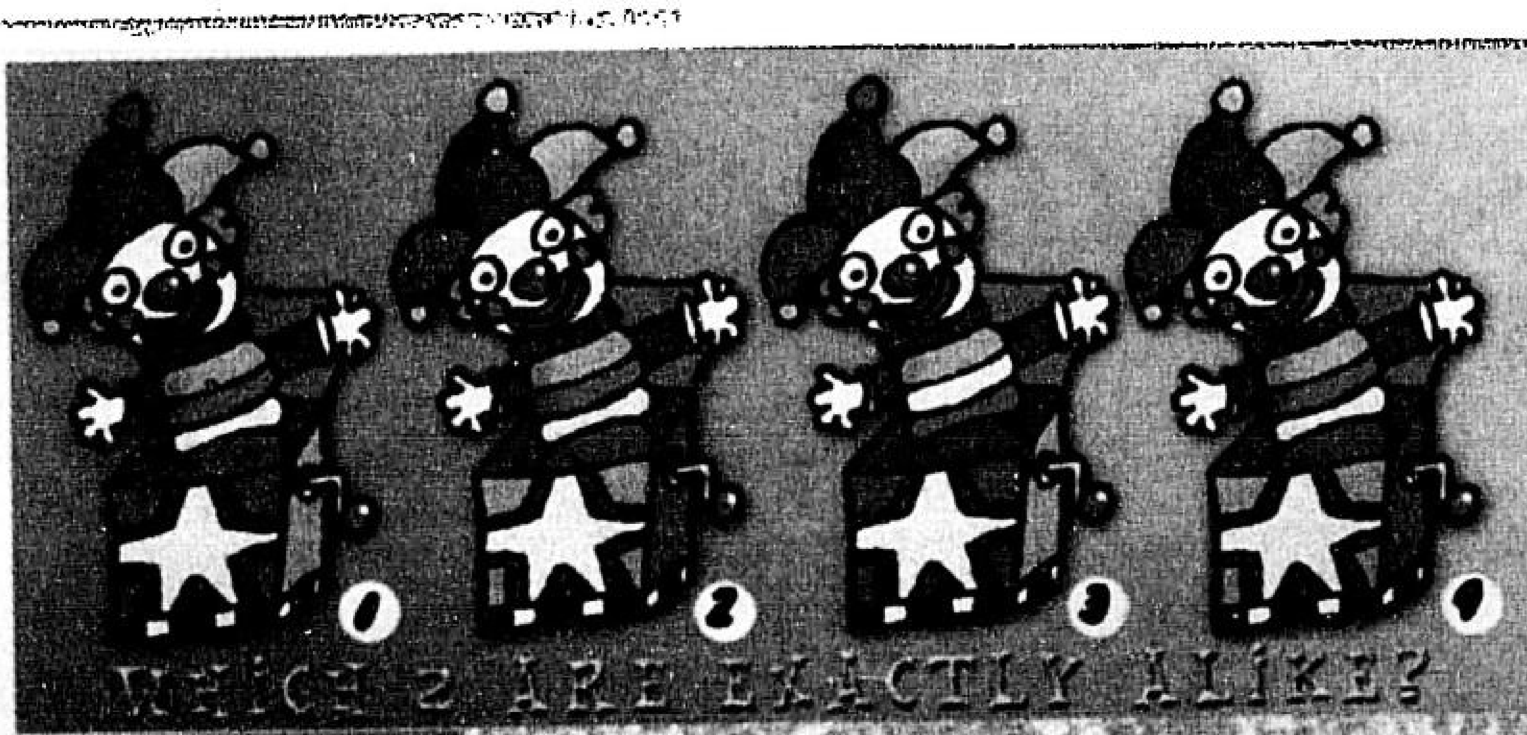
Kinabukasan,
muling sinuklay at hinagod ni Carlota
ang mahaba at maitim na buhok ng Nanay niya.
Isa, dalawa, tatlo
'saka inilagay ang ipit.
"mukhang diwata ang Nanay ko,
Maligayang kaarawan!"
Pinupog niya ng halik ang ina.



*Si **Christine** ay nagtuturo sa Ateneo de Manila University.*
*Si **Herb** ay nag-aaral ng fine arts sa UP Diliman. Siya ay miyembro ng*
Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa


1
2
3
4
WHICH 2 ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

Got a lot of old toys, clothes and books? Don't just throw them away!

Pass them on to smaller kids (a younger brother, sister, cousin or friend) or give them to charities!

ANSWER: 2 & 4

LET'S TALK ABOUT CHALK

While touring your planet's classrooms I discovered an amazing thing called "Chalk." I bought a box of it and can't wait to show them back home!

USE THE CODE TO LEARN SOME CHALKY FACTS BELOW!

Chalk is a kind of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ - a rock formed from
12 9 13 5 19 20 15 14 5

the _ _ _ _ _ _ of animals of long ago.
19 8 5 12 12 19

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ chalk can be true chalk or [illegible]
2 12 1 3 11 2 15 1 18 4

commonly, it's made of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ [illegible]
[illegible]

comes from a mineral called _ _ _ _ _ _
[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

[illegible]

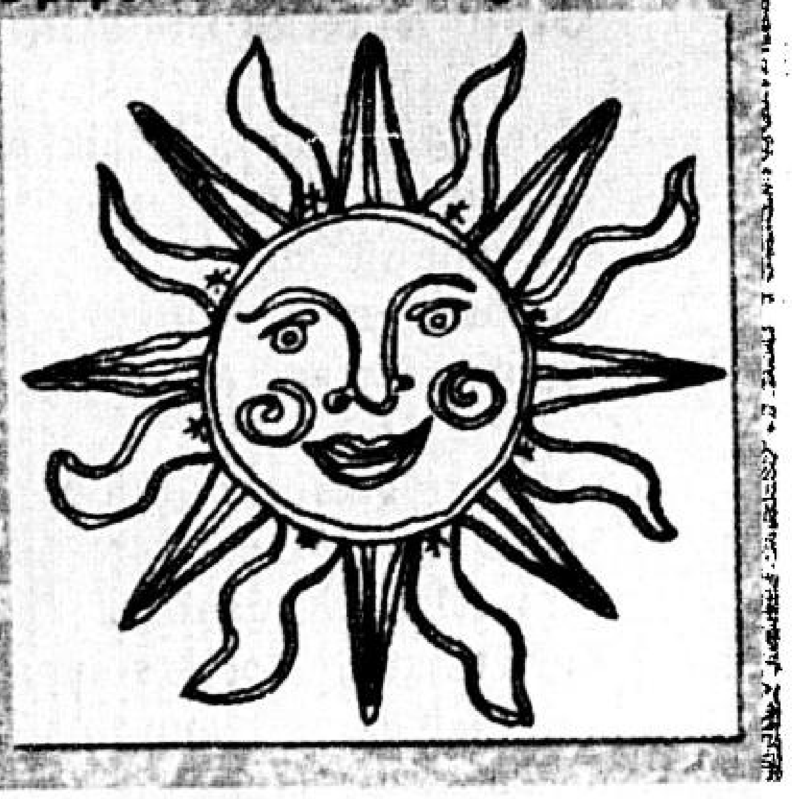
Art N. Craft soon-to-be-famous, all-around creative GUY!

HI! THE PICTURE ART IS HOLDING IS CALLED A **MOSAIC**.

A MOSAIC USES SMALL BITS OF COLORED MATERIAL (SEEDS, BEADS, TILES, PAPER, BUTTONS, GLASS ETC.) TO FORM A BIGGER PICTURE.

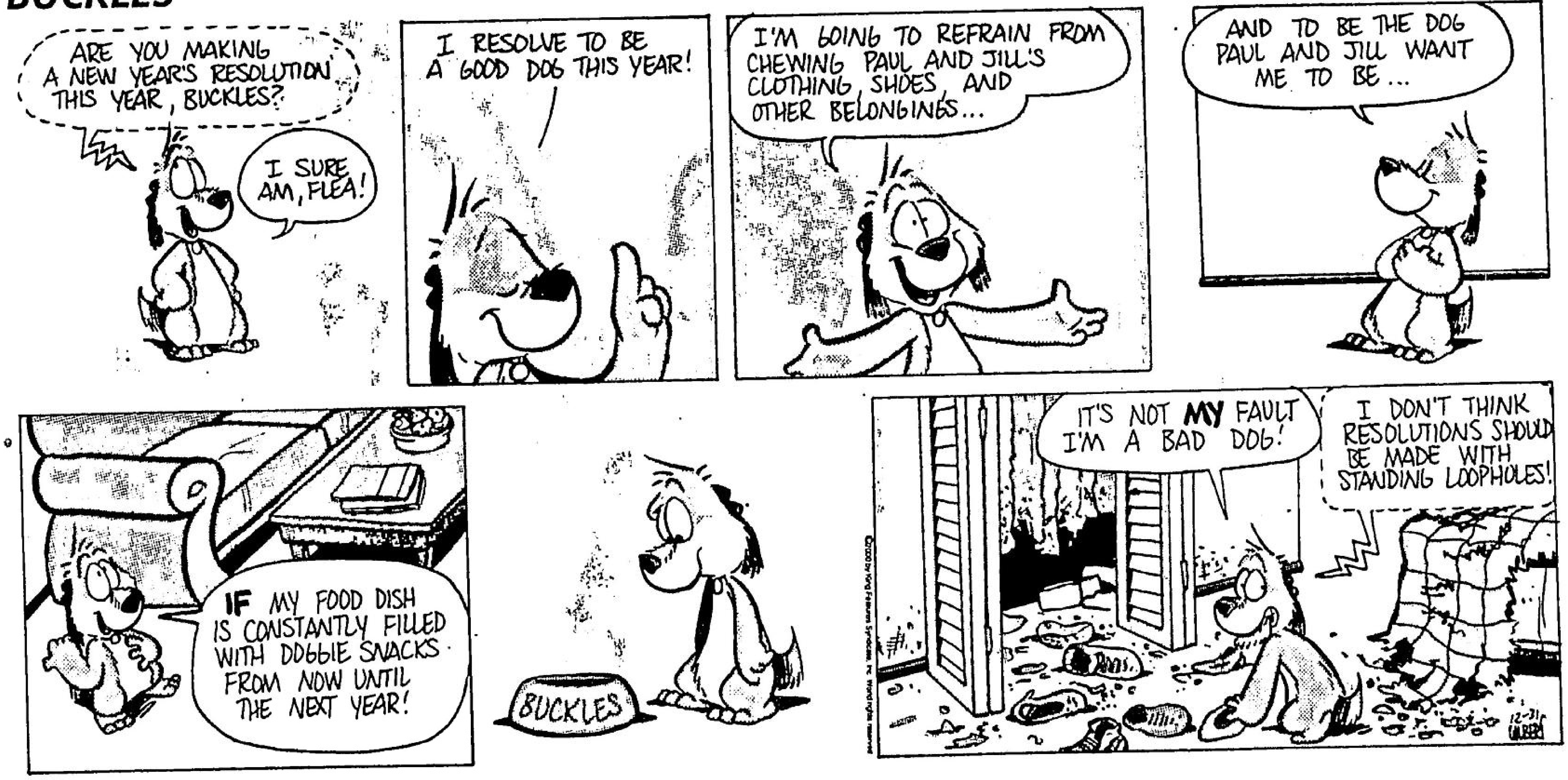
MAKE YOUR OWN MOSAIC!

Enlarge the picture below on a photocopier. Glue seeds or small pieces of colored paper to form the image.



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


ARE YOU MAKING A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THIS YEAR, BUCKLES?
I SURE AM, FLEA!
I RESOLVE TO BE A GOOD DOG THIS YEAR!
I'M GOING TO REFRAIN FROM CHEWING PAUL AND JILL'S CLOTHING, SHOES, AND OTHER BELONGINGS...
AND TO BE THE DOG PAUL AND JILL WANT ME TO BE...
IF MY FOOD DISH IS CONSTANTLY FILLED WITH DOGGIE SNACKS FROM NOW UNTIL THE NEXT YEAR!
BUCKLES
IT'S NOT MY FAULT I'M A BAD DOG!
I DON'T THINK RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE MADE WITH STANDING LOOPHOLES!
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12-31 GILBERT